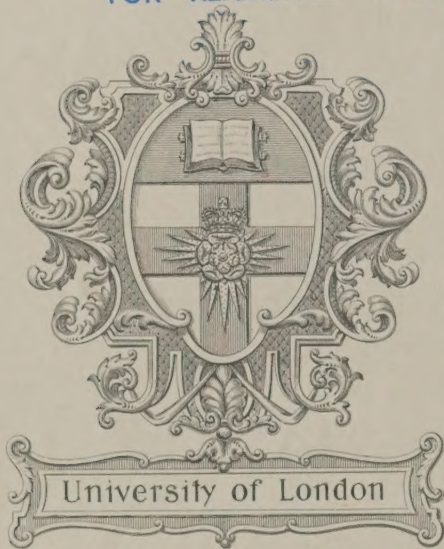
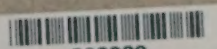


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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

PROPOSED CESSION

OF

THE GAMBIA TO FRANCE.

*Presented to the House of Lords by Command of Her Majesty.
August 9, 1870.*

LONDON:

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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

PROPOSED CESSION

THE GAMBIA TO FRANCE.

Presented to the House of Lords by Command of Her Majesty.
January 9, 1829.

LONDON:
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Correspondence respecting the proposed Cession of the Gambia to France.

No. 1.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

No. 1.

Government House, Sierra Leone,

April 29, 1869.

(Received May 21, 1869.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord,

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 35 (Sierra Leone) 1st April, 1869;* and I would preface my reply by referring your Lordship to my despatch on the same subject, No. 85, dated 12th April, 1869, which was written prior to the receipt of your Lordship's despatch above quoted.

2. I have but little to state in addition to what may be gathered from my despatches named in the margin.

No. 77, July 3,
1868.

3. I shall comment shortly upon the considerations your Lordship places before me in connection with the subject of your despatch.

No. 15, January 22,
1869.

4. I think it would be most undesirable to have any European Power settled in the territory between our ancient possession, the Isles de Los, and Sierra Leone.

No. 85, April 12,
1869.

Such occupation must, in my opinion, and that of the leading commercial men here, materially injure the trade and prospects of this settlement, and will never be peaceably accepted by the natives, who are intelligent, English-speaking Mahomedans.

5. I see no objection, from a British point of view, to the occupation by France of any territories to the north of the Isles de Los.

6. I have before stated that the possession of Gambia and Bulama is greatly desired by Mr. Braouezec, who represents France on this coast; and I feel sure that the cession of either of these would prove more than an equivalent from a French point of view for their abandonment of the right of sovereignty claimed by them over the Moriah and Samo country.

7. This arrangement would tend to consolidate the territory belonging to, or under the protection of both nations. Moreover, the French mode of colonization on this coast would be better suited to the natives surrounding Bulama, and bordering on the River Gambia, than the mild sway of Great Britain.

8. I shall be ready to enter into details should your Lordship think this proposition one that can be entertained.

9. Our trade with the Moriah and Samo country, will always prove a source of profit without any outlay; while the settlements at the Gambia and Bulama will be a source of expense, with very little profit to British commerce, as well as a source of anxiety, especially the former.

10. I entertain no doubt that our recognition of the right of the French to occupy the Moriah country unmolested, would enable Earl Clarendon to dictate and obtain any commercial terms he pleased; but I must, at the same time, assure your Lordship that the natives of the country in question who are highly intelligent, would regard any negotiations with a view to giving over their country to French occupation, in the light of a *sale* of their country by Great Britain to France; and

* These despatches relate to the sovereignty claimed by the French over the Moriah and Samo country.

that it would irretrievably damage our prestige upon the coast, and raise a spirit of universal distrust against us.

11. The Moriah and Samo people have for fifty years regarded themselves as subjects of, and under the protection of, Great Britain; and if it be our policy to withdraw from this friendly, profitable, and inexpensive compact, I should recommend that it should be done without entering into any negotiations whatever with the French Government. Our existing Treaties give us the right of equality of trade; and we should thus escape the odium which, in the estimation of the natives, will undoubtedly attach to us of having betrayed or abandoned them and sold their country.

12. None save those who have associated personally with these people can comprehend their chivalrous attachment to the Queen and Her Government.

13. The complications on the Gold Coast ought to satisfy the most sceptical that Africans feel quite as sensitively as Europeans on these points.

I have, &c.

Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Sir F. R. Sandford to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

Downing Street, August 4, 1869.

WITH reference to my letter of the 9th March, and to your reply of the 23rd of that month, upon the questions arising out of the recent French territorial acquisitions on the Pouricaria and Mellicourie Rivers, comprised in what is known as the "Moriah country," I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Earl of Clarendon, copies of two despatches from the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements.

The former despatch was written before Sir A. Kennedy had received Lord Granville's despatch, stating his views on the subject, in which Lord Clarendon had expressed his general concurrence; the latter is in reply to the despatch communicating those views to the Governor.

His Lordship will perceive that Sir A. Kennedy considers that it would be very undesirable to have any European Power settled in the territory between the Isles de Los and Sierra Leone; and that he is of opinion that the cession of the Gambia to the French would be more than an equivalent for their abandonment of any right of sovereignty claimed by them over the Moriah and Samo countries.

Lord Granville would suggest whether it might not be advisable to ascertain from the French Government whether they still desire to obtain the cession of the Gambia in exchange for certain Factories on the Gold Coast, as proposed by them in 1866, and at the same time, if so, whether they would likewise agree to a definite line being fixed to the north of Sierra Leone, between which and the Colony they will not exercise any political influence.

Lord Granville would suggest, for consideration, that the French should not interfere with any tribes on the banks of rivers which fall into the sea south of the Isles de Los; and that the British Government should abandon all claim to territory north of those rivers. Whether the Isle of Bulama, if adjudged to belong to Great Britain, should be included in this cession, may be for future consideration.

I have, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

(Signed) F. R. SANDFORD.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

Sir,

Downing Street, September 20, 1869.

WITH reference to the suggestion contained in your despatch No. 98* of the 29th April, that the cession of the Gambia to the French Government would be more than an equivalent for their abandonment of the right of sovereignty claimed by them over the Moriah and Samo country, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter which his Lordship caused to be addressed to the Foreign Office, together with a copy of one from that Department, enclosing a draft of a despatch which the Earl of Clarendon proposes to address to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris on the subject.†

Lord Granville desires me to request that you will at your early convenience furnish him with any observations which you may have to make in regard to the proposed mutual surrender of territories on the West Coast.

I am, &c.

Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.,
Junior United Service Club.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

* Page 1.

Colonial Office.
August 4, 1869,
page 2

† Note.—The
despatch as actually
sent, dated 11th
February, 1870,
will be found at
p. 8.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Junior United Service Club,
September 23, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 20th September, 1869, enclosing the copy of a letter addressed by Sir F. R. Sandford to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, together with the draft of a proposed despatch from Earl Clarendon to Lord Lyons, on the subject of the cession of the Gambia to the French Government, and requesting my observations thereon.

I have in former despatches, addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated some of the reasons, which induced me to recommend the cession of the Gambia to the French Government, and it may be convenient that I should shortly restate them.

1. The expense of maintaining troops in the settlement, about 20,000*l.* a-year, which sum I believe to exceed the whole mercantile profits of the place.
2. The hopelessness of extending civilization among the peculiar population which surrounds and composes the bulk of the settlement.
3. The precarious nature of the revenue, and probability of ultimate failure of the ground-nut crop which forms the staple export of the settlement.
4. That the trade is now almost exclusively French and will become more so yearly.
5. Its utter uselessness as a military post, and its unimportance to Great Britain as a mercantile settlement.
6. The probability, if not certainty, of frequent collisions with the surrounding native tribes, which renders the maintenance of an expensive protective force necessary.
7. The responsibility of maintaining the settlement without any result or prospective advantage.

I have on the other hand pointed out in former despatches, the advantage which would accrue to our commerce generally, and the prosperity of the settlement of Sierra Leone in particular, if the Samo and Moriah countries were freed from French domination, and left to manage their own affairs under their existing Treaties with Great Britain.

Though I think the abandonment of any real or assumed right of sovereignty claimed by France over the Morian and Samo country would be much more than an equivalent for our cession of the Gambia, I entertain no doubt that the French Government attach far greater value and importance to the sovereignty over the latter, both in a military and commercial point of view.

A glance at the map will show that the possession of the St. Louis or Senegal River on the north, and the Gambia on the south, would afford valuable facilities for governing a settlement on which the French Government have expended so

much money, and to which they attach so much importance. The possession of the Gambia would enable them to develop the resources of the French Settlement of Senegal to an extent hitherto impossible, giving them command of the two great outlets for that territory. Should such an arrangement be entertained, I think the British sovereignty of Bulama (if confirmed) should be ceded together with Gambia. As here, too, the trade is almost exclusively French, and will continue to be so, and the Portuguese are bad neighbours on the coast of Africa.

I have every reason to believe that the possession of Gambia and Bulama is eagerly desired by the Representatives of the French Government on the coast. I attach little value (from a British point of view) to any territory lying north of the Rio Pongas.

I have understood that it was at one time contemplated to exchange the Gambia Settlement for the French Settlements of Grand Bassam, Dabon, and Assinie, with a view of again exchanging these latter with those of the Dutch Government on the Gold Coast.

If such views were entertained, I feel confident they could not be realized. Those French Settlements would be of no value to the Dutch Government, who, I believe, hold their settlements for the main, if not sole, purpose of recruiting their forces in Java; and for this purpose they would be valueless, and would not, therefore, I think, be accepted by the Netherlands Government. The settlements first adverted to have been a source of expense and trouble to France, and to Great Britain they would prove an expensive and unmanageable incumbrance.

Their geographical position and surrounding circumstances render it improbable, if not impossible, that they can ever enjoy any considerable commercial development. They cannot, at present, attract any of the mercantile steamers trading to the coast.

The French Settlements south of Sierra Leone can never interfere with British interests or commerce. The French Settlement at Gaboon would prove equally as the others before-named an incumbrance to Great Britain.

If I have not been sufficiently explicit in this hastily written letter, I shall be glad to furnish any further information which may be required of me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

Sir,

Downing Street, October 4, 1869.

* Page 3.

WITH reference to your letter of 23rd ultimo* respecting the proposed exchange of certain territories with the French Government on the West Coast of Africa, I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will be good enough to furnish his Lordship with an adequate geographical description of the position and extent of the territory known as the Moriah and Samo country in regard to which you propose that the French should be invited to cede their claims.

I am, &c.

Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.

(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G.

Sir,

13, Landsdown Crescent, Cheltenham,
October 7, 1869.

REFERRING to your communication dated 4th October, 1869, requiring an adequate geographical description of the position and extent of the territory known as the Moriah and Samo country lying between Sierra Leone and the Rio Pongas, I have the honour to state that one of my despatches on the subject of the French occupation of this country was accompanied by a sketch map, on a large scale, to which I would beg to refer you.

In the event of the despatch and map adverted to not supplying sufficient information for Lord Granville's purposes, I shall be happy to afford any further information on my return to London in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Rear-Admiral Patey to the Right Hon. W. Monsell, M.P.

Amherst Lodge, Tunbridge Wells,
October 1, 1869.

Sir,
IN a communication I had with you a few days since relative to our relinquishing the settlements of the Gambia, you asked me to state my opinion on the subject.

The settlements of the Gambia in a pecuniary point of view are in a satisfactory condition, having at the present moment upwards of 10,000*l.* in the Colonial Chest; but should the various works and buildings which are in contemplation (and which have been placed on the estimates for the year 1870) meet with the approval of the Secretary of State, these works will absorb the greater portion of the surplus revenue.

The probable revenue for the present year is estimated at 21,593*l.*, and the expenditure at 20,577*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,016*l.* in favour of the settlements; but a certain Customs Tariff Ordinance will expire on the 31st December, and should it not be further extended, will cause a falling-off in the revenue of upwards of 2,000*l.* per annum, which, together with an anticipated depreciation in the quality and quantity of the ground-nut crop, may further cause a loss to the revenue in 1870.

There are five English mercantile establishments in the Gambia, three of which are, I believe, far from being in a flourishing condition; and there are four French establishments which are steadily monopolizing the trade. They have agencies at Senegal, Goree, and other parts north of the Gambia, and at Casamano to the south, in connection with establishments at Marseilles, Bordeaux, and other French ports, to which places the ground-nuts are all sent.

The French pay in cash for the ground-nuts and other produce. This is preferred by the natives to the old system of barter still pursued by the English merchants; in consequence, the trade of the Gambia is rapidly falling into the hands of the French.

One wing of a West India Regiment is always quartered at the Gambia with the usual staff of Civil officers, &c., at a cost to the Imperial Government estimated at about 30,000*l.* per annum.

The principal object had in view in the maintenance of these establishments, was the suppression of the Slave Trade from the Coast, which is now virtually at an end.

Domestic slavery still prevails amongst the native tribes whose social condition appears to have been little improved by intercourse with Europeans.

The climate during four months of the year is extremely unhealthy. The water is at all times very impure; and from the pooriness of the soil, vegetables, which are raised in plenty at Sierra Leone, cannot be grown. The supply of animal food is most inferior, the price very high, and the meat devoid of nourishing properties. During the rainy season a European can scarcely bear up against these outending evils; all who can possibly manage to do so leave the settlements.

The native character is extremely dull and indolent, and seems little capable of improvement; and the climate, or some other cause, appears to have a very demoralizing effect on the majority of Europeans.

Undoubtedly, the settlements of the Gambia are maintained at a heavy sacrifice—morally, physically, and pecuniarily—to the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. G. E. PATEY, Rear-Admiral,
Administrator, Gambia.

The Right Hon. W. Monsell, M.P.

No. 8.

No. 8.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. E. Hammond.

Sir,

Downing Street, October 21, 1869.

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th instant,* regarding the proposed exchange of territory with the French Government on the West Coast of Africa, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Clarendon, a copy of a further letter from Sir A. Kennedy on the subject.

Lord Granville desires me to observe that Sir A. Kennedy proposes that, in consideration of the cession of the Gambia, the French should cease to exercise authority over the Africans on the coast or banks of rivers between Sierra Leone and the River Dembia inclusive.

I am, &c.

The Right Hon. E. Hammond,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G.

Sir,

London, October 14, 1869.

REFERRING to your letter dated 4th October, requesting me to furnish Lord Granville with an adequate geographical description of the position and extent of the territory known as the Moriah and Samo country, in regard to which I propose that the French should be invited to cede their claims, I have the honour to state, that the seaboard of these territories extends from the River Samo (See "Ord's Outline Map") north of Sierra Leone, to the River Dembia north of the Isles de Los, which are British territory and occupied by us.

The map accompanying my despatch on this subject, points out the situation of the Block-house, lately erected by the French. I have never been able to ascertain the extent of the French claims in this quarter, but I think they should be invited to abandon all claim to territory and rivers lying between the River Dembia (to the north of Isles de Los) and Sierra Leone.

If this proposition be acceded to, it would be quite unnecessary to indicate any inland boundaries.

The possession of any or all the rivers lying between the points I have indicated by any European power, would materially interfere with our commerce, and would render collisions very probable.

I have, &c.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

No. 9.

No. 9.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 23, 1869.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing a Report* from the Governor of Sierra Leone, upon the proposed exchange of territory with the French on the West African Coast, and suggesting that the best arrangement would be to cede to them the British settlement on the Gambia, on condition of their consenting to the establishment of a boundary north of Sierra Leone, embracing the Samo and Moriah country, beyond which they would undertake not to exercise any rights or influence; and also your letter of the 21st instant, with the copy of a further letter from Sir A. Kennedy on the same subject.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to Earl Granville that Lord Clarendon desires to defer entirely to the opinion of the Colonial Office regarding questions of this nature which come more within the province of that Department, and of which their sources of information must necessarily render them the best

judges; and I am to add that, when the proposals which Earl Granville desires should be made are sufficiently matured and communicated to this Office, Lord Clarendon will be happy to submit them to the consideration of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Sir F. R. Sandford to Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.

Sir, Downing Street, November 10, 1869.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, regarding the proposed exchange of territory with the French on the West Coast of Africa, in which you intimate the readiness of the Earl of Clarendon to submit to the consideration of the French Government any definite proposals which Lord Granville may desire to make.

It appears to his Lordship that the proposals might be as follows:—

1. That Her Majesty's Government (with consent of Parliament) should cede absolutely to the French all its sovereign and territorial rights on the River Gambia, and should not acquire or retain any sovereignty, or exercise political influence over any native tribes adjacent to any river in North Africa which falls into the sea to the north of the mouth of the River Dembia.

2. That the claims of the English Government in, or in the neighbourhood of, the Island of Bulama, being contested by the Portuguese, and now under reference to the United States for arbitration, Her Majesty's Government will cede to France such rights as may be accepted by them in satisfaction of these claims.

3. That the French Government will not acquire or retain any sovereignty, or exercise any political influence in respect to the natives dwelling in the neighbourhood of any branch or tributary of the Dembia River, or of any river falling into the sea between that river and the River Shebar inclusive.

4. That this Treaty will not prevent either the English Government from enforcing redress for injuries from natives not being subjects of the French Government north or east of the River Dembia, provided application for redress is first made ineffectually to the French Government,—nor the French Government from enforcing the like redress, under the like conditions, from natives not being subjects of the English Government to the south and west of the Dembia.

If Lord Clarendon concurs in these proposals, I am to request that you will move his Lordship to submit them to the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. R. SANDFORD.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Thomas F. Quin, Esq., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

44, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.,
January 12, 1870.

My Lord,

I TRUST your Lordship will not consider me as obtruding on your valuable time by asking a question respecting a matter which very deeply interests myself, fellow-Colonists, and merchants in and out of Her Majesty's Settlements on the River Gambia.

It is currently reported on the West Coast of Africa, in London, Liverpool, and in the principal commercial cities of France, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to hand over the River Gambia to the French. I have, therefore, as one deeply interested, having relatives born there, who are now living there, after having been brought up and educated in this country—as one who has a young family now being educated here in England with the view of returning to the Gambia, where they were born, and where their future prospects lie—as one having a large capital at stake there, most respectfully to ask your Lordship, on the part

of myself and the British community in the Gambia, if Her Majesty's Government really intend to transfer us to the French.

Of course we are well aware that if Her Majesty's Government are resolved to transfer us we cannot resist; and although none of us desire to change our nationality, and although we all look upon such a change with horror, still we cannot avoid hoping that such a report is unfounded; but be that as it may, it would relieve our minds very much if your Lordship would intimate whether this rumour be well founded or not.

Some, if not all of us, would like to move our *lares et penates* beforehand if the change is to take place, and if it is not, we should feel thankful to know that these sinister reports which have now prevailed for some time are unfounded.

I am authorized to state, as a fact, that the French residents and merchants are as much opposed to a transfer as we are.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS F. QUIN.

To the Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Thos. Quin, Esq.

Sir,

Downing Street, February 3, 1870.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo,* enquiring whether it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to transfer the Gambia to the French Government; and I am to acquaint you, in reply, that his Lordship is not able at present to give any definite answer to your question, but that in no case could such an arrangement take place without the intervention of Parliament.

* Page 7.

I am, &c.

Thomas Quin, Esq.,

(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, February 21, 1870.

I HAVE to request that you will report to me whether any serious reluctance to the transfer of the Gambia to the French is to be anticipated on the part of the natives, and what means you would recommend in order to overcome that reluctance if it should appear to exist.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 14.

No. 14.

The Earl of Clarendon, K.G., to the Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1870.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that, in the month of March 1866, I received a communication from the French Ambassador at this Court, containing proposals from the Imperial Government for an exchange of certain territories belonging to the two Crowns respectively, on the West Coast of Africa.

It was suggested on the part of the French Government, that Her Majesty's Government should cede to France the settlement and territories belonging to the British Crown on the River Gambia, in return for which France proposed to surrender to this country the French posts of Grand Bassam, Dabon, and Assinie,

situated on what is called the Ivory Coast; and the ground for making this proposal was stated to be, that French trade on the West Coast had of late years increased on that portion of the coast lying between the Senegal and Gambia Rivers, whilst British trade, on the other hand, was represented to be increasing to the southward of Sierra Leone; and it was suggested, therefore, that an exchange by which France should acquire additional advantages for trading purposes to the north, and Great Britain to the south, of Sierra Leone, would be for the mutual advantage of the two countries.

This proposal was submitted for the consideration of the Colonial Department, but before sufficient time had elapsed to enable Her Majesty's Government to ascertain by inquiries on the coast what would be the effect of the proposed exchange, a fresh proposal was received from the Imperial Government, to the effect that the French settlements on the River Gaboon might possibly be more acceptable to Her Majesty's Government than the Ivory Coast establishments, and proposing, therefore, to exchange the Gaboon Settlements against the Gambia.

On mature consideration, however, Her Majesty's Government did not think it advisable to entertain the French proposals, and the French Ambassador was informed accordingly in a note addressed to his Excellency on the 22nd May, 1868, and the question has not again been raised.

Events, however, have since occurred which might make it advisable for Her Majesty's Government, and the Government of the Emperor of the French, to come to an understanding with regard to their territorial interests on the West Coast of Africa.

Your Excellency is aware that the French have within the last three years established posts immediately to the north of Sierra Leone, in the countries watered by the Mellicourie and Fouricaria Rivers, and they have also established, or are about to establish, Custom-houses in the countries which they have taken under their protection; and they have also levied dues on British vessels engaged in trade with some of those places.

Lord Stanley pointed out to your Excellency, in his despatch of this series of the 3rd December, 1867, that these proceedings were prejudicial to the interests of the neighbouring British Colony, as by the Treaties concluded with the Chiefs of Fouricaria on the 10th June, 1861, and with the Chiefs of Samo and Moryeariah on the 20th May, 1845, free and unrestricted intercourse for trade and commerce, and for all other legitimate purposes in and throughout the countries adjacent to and bordering on the Fouricaria and Mellicourie Rivers, were guaranteed to British subjects in consideration of annual payments made by the British Government.

With a view, therefore, to obviate any further discussions upon these points, Her Majesty's Government now desire to submit through your Excellency the following proposals for the consideration of the French Government:—

1. That Her Majesty's Government (with the consent of Parliament and of the natives) should cede absolutely to the French all its Sovereign and territorial rights on the River Gambia, and should not acquire or retain any sovereignty, or exercise political influence over any native tribes adjacent to any river in North Africa, which falls into the sea to the north of the River Dembia.

2. That as the claims of the English Government in or in the neighbourhood of the Island of Bulama are contested by the Portuguese, and are now under reference to the United States for arbitration, Her Majesty's Government can only promise to cede to France such rights as they may acquire resulting from the arbitration in question.

3. That the French Government will not acquire or retain any sovereignty, or exercise any political influence in respect to the natives dwelling in the neighbourhood of any branch or tributary of the Dembia River, or of any river falling into the sea between that river and the River Shebar inclusive.

4. That this engagement will not prevent either the English Government from enforcing redress for injuries from natives, not being subjects of the French Government, north or east of the River Dembia, provided application for redress is first made directly to the French Government, nor the French Government from enforcing the like redress under the like conditions, from natives not being subjects of the English Government to the south and west of the Dembia.

Your Excellency will ascertain and report to me the views of the French Government upon these proposals, which, however, cannot be considered as finally matured until they have been sanctioned by Parliament, and until the feelings of the natives have been consulted upon the proposed change of sovereignty.

I enclose a printed copy of all the former papers which are necessary for your Excellency's full information upon this question.

His Excellency the Lord Lyons, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 15.

No. 15.

Memorandum by Mr. Fowler relative to the Settlements on the River Gambia.

HAVING held an official appointment for the last eighteen months in this Colony, which favoured the acquisition of an accurate knowledge of the physical features and trading capabilities of the settlements, I have the honour to submit the information which the opportunities derived from a residence on the spot enable me to glean, as I am led to understand by public rumour that there is a probability of transferring the Colony to the French Government, and I thought any local experience bearing on the subject would not be unacceptable.

In order to condense the information which I wish to convey, I must confine myself to the present and future, leaving the past as a matter of history.

The first object for consideration must necessarily be "Ways and Means."

By the statement of the *actual* revenue and expenditure, appended to this Memorandum, a deficit appears for the year 1869, of 4,718*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, and although this sum is provided for in the general balance remaining in the Colonial Chest, yet it shows a falling-off of some 5,000*l.* from the previous year's revenue.

In estimating the revenue for 1870, a further reduction may be anticipated, the reasons for which will be found in the course of this paper.

The trade of the colony as represented by the imports and exports, which will be found fully detailed in the "Government Gazette," annexed hereto,* is characterized by the fact that out of the 94,207*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, the value of the imports, Great Britain contributes but one half. So on in the exports, where Great Britain is represented by a sum of 20,000*l.* out of a total of 91,000*l.* in round figures, showing her export interests to be a little less than a fifth of the trade of the Colony.

The shipping points out more clearly the nationality of our trade, inasmuch as only 34 vessels entered from Great Britain, out of a total of 188 for 1869. The French interest absorb 111, 21 being direct from France, and 90 from Senegal and Goree; the remaining 43 representing the Leeward coast (including the mail-steamer) and America, 10 being divided between the latter country and the West Indies. Not to allow even the foregoing statistics to mislead us, it must be remembered that out of the 34 entered from Great Britain, 20 were the mail-steamer under contract to call at this port, whose tonnage amounted to 15,374 tons, so that to comprehend the actual difference, the mail-steamer should be deducted, leaving 13 vessels representing a tonnage of 3,286 as compared with 111 French vessels with a tonnage of 11,495.

This monopoly is more fully demonstrated in noting the departures of vessels from this point, for whereas only 21 entered from France, 37 cleared direct to that country during 1869. From the 198 vessels clearing from the port, 39 went to Great Britain, 110 to France, Goree and Senegal, the remainder to the Leeward coast, America, and the West Indies.

Again, the 39 vessels to England contain the record of 19 mail-steamer, which, as in the case of those entering must be deducted, leaving 20 vessels with a tonnage of 5,785 as against 110 French vessels of 13,984 tons tonnage.

The nationality of the vessels entering and clearing at Bathurst is classed as follows:—

ENTERING.							
British, including the mail-steamer	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
French	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
							188
CLEARING.							
British, including mail steamers	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
French	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
							198

* The Statement of Imports and Exports will be found as Enclosures to Sir A. Kennedy's Confidential despatch of 29th March, 1870, page 19.

Having now given the usual basis on which it is supposed an opinion of a place may be ascertained, I submit the following remarks bearing on the foregoing statistics which a local residence and experience enable me to make.

If negotiations are contemplated, as rumour affirms, with the French Government regarding the Colony, it will be necessary to examine more fully the relations existing between the two parties on the spot, as well as to realize the value of their several interests, together with the total amount involved in the question at issue.

There are four English mercantile houses, two of which are represented and conducted by the principals themselves, the rest by agents. All are, more or less, restricting their business, and one withdrawing altogether from the trade, leaving three, as compared with four French houses, who, on the reverse, are extending their connections and investing large sums in improvements on their premises. The capital the French houses are thus investing in that outlay about equalizes that already sunk by the English.

The system of trading that has been carried on has been that of barter; but this is being superseded in consequence of the French houses introducing cash transactions. This leads us to the serious consideration of the whole fiscal condition of the Colony, whose principal source of revenue is derived on the importation of goods which, for the future, will be immensely reduced, as specie is now being substituted for the purchase of our products in lieu of goods, on the former of which no duty is leviable. It is highly expedient, therefore, that measures be adopted to meet the change that is gradually taking place in the character of the trade of the Colony.

I will now compare the transactions of the English and French houses during the year 1869.

The total value of imports was 94,027*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, 23,309*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* of which was imported by the French merchants, leaving 70,717*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* as the value of the goods imported by the English.

The staple article of commerce, viz., ground-nuts, being included in the exports, particular attention is required to the following figures:—

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The value of the ground-nuts exported was	..	..	..	..	..	..	73,966	2	0
Exported by the English houses	..	..	..	45,233	10	0			
Exported by the French	..	..	..	28,732	12	0			
				73,966	2	0			
Hides exported	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,980	3	0
Exported by English	..	..	..	1,784	18	0			
Exported by the French	..	..	..	245	5	0			
				1,980	3	0			

Now, considering the French residents are new compared to the English, yet the above Return must convince one of the rapid influence the former are gaining over the trade of the Colony, showing as it does that the French, in a short space of time, have absorbed over one-half of the export trade of the products of the Colony. This information also furnishes the best criterion to judge of the relative business done by the two parties, as the shipments of each are included in the above Return.

The exports of the French as compared with their imports produces this fact that, whereas the French only import a little over a-fourth, they export more than a-half of the entire produce, and warrants the inference that, by the introduction of specie transactions, they escape the payment of the greater part of the duties, and graft upon the English, as the principal importers, a heavy burden of taxation.

As to the amount of capital involved on both sides I do not think there can be a doubt but that the balance is on the side of the French. Their houses here are merely branches of large firms in Marseilles and elsewhere; whereas the English houses, with the exception of one, represent only individual capital, which is not difficult to estimate, as it is confined entirely to this place. The exception is the one previously mentioned as withdrawing from business, so that, in the event of the question of compensation arising in transferring the Colony, each individual interest could be calculated by a per-centage on the amount of their respective imports and exports, estimating the real estate belonging to each at its market value. With regard to the latter property in the Colony most of it is in the hands of the English, and that which has passed to the French carries with it no real title in the absence of an alien law in the Settlements. Yet the latter lose no opportunity of buying

and the former are not unwilling to dispose of their interests; in fact, there is an inclination on their part to retire altogether from the Settlement, and the contemplated change leads them to the hope that it will be the means of their being purchased out. Having added the above local information to the official statistics, I will endeavour, from the reasons I have before stated, to review the circumstances of the Colony and the advisability or otherwise of transferring it to the French.

The prospects presented by the result of last year's revenue, which, showing a reduction of nearly a-fourth of the previous year, are not encouraging; and although it may in a manner be accounted for by the effects of the cholera epidemic, yet it is too evident that a gradual depreciation is taking place in the value of our productions, as borne out by the price quoted in the market against them.

The ground-nut, formerly cultivated on the banks of the Gambia alone, is now grown in the Southern States and elsewhere, by which a foreign competition is introduced into the market. After all, it is but a precarious plant for a Colony to entirely rely on, when it must be remembered that the ground-nut is subject to the vicissitudes of seasons regarding its growth and to the fluctuations of commerce regarding its value. The latter consideration is far more paramount at this time, yet much anxiety must be felt on both accounts; but, whatever may be the future of the Colony, its present fiscal arrangements require to be revised at once or the revenue at the end of this year will show a greater falling-off than last. The present introduction of specie for the purchase of ground-nuts, taking the place of the importation of goods on which duties are collected, necessarily deprives the Colony of its principal source of revenue. This will entail considerable trouble as well as, I fear, cause some dissatisfaction which would be obviated by the transfer.

Giving due credit to the foregoing consideration in estimating the future and contemplating the present position of the Colony and the reputation it enjoys of a flourishing Treasury, would it not be better to complete negotiations, than in a time reverting back to the old state of burden and anxiety on the Imperial Government? There is yet a greater cause to urge, inasmuch as I venture to predict that, on the withdrawal of the troops from the Colony, disturbances will ensue, which would put Her Majesty's Government to great expense. I have mentioned this, being justified by the rumours I have heard from the natives myself; and from their character, it is impossible to shut one's eyes to the warning. These Settlements are not similar to others on the coast. We are surrounded by a warlike and fanatic tribe, who are increasing in numbers and influence daily, whose religion teaches them that their salvation depends upon the extermination of the white man from their country. I do not consider the Colony, under its present auspices, in a position to support an extensive police force and a gun-boat, both of which I think will be necessary on the withdrawal of the troops, to protect a European population of between 30 or 40 out of some 4,000 inhabitants.

If such is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to part with the Gambia, surely the present moment must be the most opportune, now that the Colony is in somewhat a trying position, and when all the advantages derived from the Settlements are steadily enjoyed by the French at our expense, whereas all the expenditure incurred for its protection and management devolves upon the English, with so very few corresponding benefits to compensate them, a state of things which, in fact amounts to this, that the English pay all the expenses of a trade, more than half of which is monopolized by the French, who in no way hardly contribute towards its administration or protection.

If an exchange of territory is contemplated a line of demarcation might be drawn, dividing the ground-nut and palm-oil producing countries, leaving the former to the French, who are more specially engaged in that trade, and the latter to the English, for a similar reason, thus favouring the concentration of English territory on the coast.

The policy of a measure transferring the Colony cannot, I think, be gainsayed, when we consider that the object for which stations have been maintained, at immense expense on this coast, has been accomplished, viz., the abolition of oceanic slavery; besides, does the amount of trade carried on, or is it of sufficient importance in a national point of view, to justify the maintenance of these Settlements, endowed with institutions of government, and protected by a regular military force? But if the climate would admit of emigration from the mother-country, or the settlement of the European on this coast, I should be the last to wish to see a change effected, as I believe the country is capable of far further development, and contains a vast

amount of mineral worth; and no benefit arising except to three individuals, who are the only British subjects trading in the Colony, and whose prosperity at the best is uncertain. I fail to see the necessity of continuing an occupation entailing an unproductive expenditure, and which may at any hour cause a great deal of trouble.

The objections to be raised to the measure would simply consist of a noise on the part of the few locally interested to enhance the value of their property, or to raise the question of compensation. The far wider consideration of the policy of surrendering a Colony can hardly be applicable in this case, as these Settlements, on account of their climate, do not bear any relation to the other Colonies, which are open to general development by emigration and settlement.

The natives of Bathurst would, perhaps, be more sincere in their motive for opposition for having some insight into the French Colonial system from the adjacent Colonies of Senegal and Goree; they prefer a civil to a military form of Government, and they cordially dread the change. As the French merchants were dissatisfied with Admiral Patey's régime, as expressed by their joining in the petition for his removal, they can have no valid objection to that of their own country.

The claims of the three mercantile houses here, if not satisfied by the advantage of selling out to French firms, for which I am convinced many opportunities would offer should the transfer be effected, could be correctly estimated and their true value arrived at, but are not any claims at all open to question? and it is a matter for argument whether there is a liability for compensation or not. If the same advantages are secured to the English merchants that they now enjoy, it is only a matter of a few years before, I fear, their interests will have disappeared altogether.

The Gambia in the hands of the French must derive many more benefits than it possesses at present, being contiguous to the large establishments of Senegal, it would receive its quota from each and constant communication being maintained between the two places; Bathurst, from its normal state, would rise under the influx of fresh blood, and its real estate would be advanced in value thereby.

The French, although they may not be anxious to forego their present advantages, yet they cannot fail to see the desirability of their possession of the place in connection with their trade of the Senegal. The two rivers running almost parallel with each other, but uniting at their sources, and the Gambia being navigable for nearly 300 miles into the interior by vessels of 10 feet draught, the whole intervening country could be brought under their control, and they would not be any longer harassed by natives attacking them on the Senegal, then retiring to the Gambia, as is now the case.

As I presume the object of Her Majesty's Government is to withdraw from the coast, no exchange of territory is contemplated, therefore the question remains as to the intrinsic value of the Colony. The most feasible plan for arriving at a conclusion I conceive to be, would be to treat the Colony as a private estate or plantation, or as a mercantile business. In considering it as the former, the estimate would be based on the revenue derived from the estate, which is some 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* a year. By calculating on the lesser sum, although I think with administrative ability there would be no difficulty in insuring an income of the larger amount, it would allow for the unsettled condition of the Colony and the precarious nature of the trade that may be advanced; but considering the field there is for developing the well-known resources of the country by so noble a river, the value of such an estate must surely be worth a fifteen years' purchase on its present income, which would assess its value at 225,000*l.*

Again, treating it as a commercial firm whose transactions are represented by the imports and exports amounting to 90,000*l.* per annum, the value of such a business would naturally be arrived at by way of a per-centage on that amount, which would represent the purchase and goodwill. Being an old established business, and one from which large fortunes have been realized, and turning over some 90,000*l.* a-year, from which large profits are made, at the same time bearing in mind the nature of the trade and climate that have to be contended against, the rate of 30 per cent. would not, I think, overrate its value, making 27,000*l.* To this must be added the stock in trade, which might fairly be estimated at the amount of one year's importation, viz., 90,000*l.*

Then remains the value of the real estate to be assessed, taking as a basis two recent sales that have occurred, a true market value can be ascertained. The

principal street contains twenty-four houses, comprising all the mercantile establishments and the most valuable property in the Colony, and they may be averaged at 3,000*l.* each, which gives 72,000*l.*

There are twenty-six houses in the next street averaging in value 500*l.* each, equal to 13,000*l.*

The remaining portion of the private real estate in the Colony may be estimated at, in round figures, 5,000*l.*

Leaving the Government establishments, with the royalties and privileges of the Crown, the value of which, being a matter of mere sentiment, I will put down at 15,000*l.* making a total of 222,000*l.* or, in round numbers, 250,000*l.* representing the value of the British Settlements on the Gambia. I think that sum may be considered a true value, as having applied a test in two different ways and a fair estimate being given in each, the same conclusion is produced. In estimating the real estate, I did not consider it equitable to take the average rental of a given number of years for the basis of an estimate, as the present high rate of rental is solely attributable to the occupation of the houses by the military authorities, and is, consequently, artificial.

It thus appears, from the foregoing information collected in this paper, that the English Government possess an estate worth 250,000*l.* from which the only benefit derived consists of an annual consumption of British merchandize valued at about 50,000*l.* For this advantage a military expenditure is incurred of some 17,000*l.* a-year, an estimate I have roughly made in the absence of any specific return. This may also include the Parliamentary grant to the Colony.

The political and philanthropical reasons for retaining the Settlements having ceased to carry force since the oceanic Slave Trade has been abolished, the question reduces itself to a proposition as to whether such an outlay of money and sacrifice of the health, energies, and life of Englishmen, who are required to serve in consequence of the maintenance of the Colony, is warranted for the protection of the trading interests of three British subjects, which is represented by an import valued at some 70,000*l.* a-year, and an export of produce worth 50,000*l.* or rather by the profits to be realized on such a business.

I now conclude this Memorandum with drawing attention to the necessity of the present position of these Settlements being realized, which I flatter myself has been pointed out by the facts that have been produced, and should the idea of the transfer fade away under the difficulties of an adjustment or want of harmony of the terms between the negotiation parties, it behoves that the whole Colony should be taken into the serious considerations of those into whose hands it is entrusted. As I am led to believe that my official connection with these Settlements may soon cease, I feel I am but performing a duty in leaving a record of the result of my experience to those who have only recently arrived and been appointed to conduct the affairs of this Colony.

In further assisting the officers of this Government I would suggest that the taxation to replace that at present in force, which has become unproductive in consequence of the change in conducting the commercial business of the Colony, should tend towards increasing the tonnage dues on shipping, exempting the mail steamers, and, in the absence of a revenue to be derived from importation, and difficulty that there would be in collecting a duty on the importation of specie from the facilities that exist for smuggling it into the Colony, a system of taxation for trade licenses should be introduced with a sliding per-centage on the amount of transactions in addition to an annual payment.

The price of ground-nuts from a foreign competition may not in a short time admit of the continuation of the export duty, when recourse will have to be made to an income or real estate tax.

I have offered the above suggestions prompted by the desire to place my humble services at the disposal of the Government, and I trust whatever little pains I have bestowed on this paper will have the effect of being useful in the interests of the Colony I have had the honour of being associated with.

(Signed)

HENRY FOWLER,

Acting Collector and Treasurer.

Bathurst, Gambia, March 12, 1870.

**STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of Her Majesty's Settlements on the
Gambia for the Year 1869.**

REVENUE.	Amount.	EXPENDITURE.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Customs	12,386 4 10	Civil establishments ..	9,821 18 2
Licenses	920 0 0	Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities ..	1,141 6 4
Rents, exclusive of land ..	632 15 5	Revenue services, exclusive of establishments ..	242 3 6
Land revenue	247 19 0	Administration of Justice, ditto ..	152 3 9
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court ..	63 8 2	Charitable allowances ..	156 9 6
Miscellaneous receipts ..	376 3 1	Education, exclusive of establishments ..	210 16 1
Receipts in aid of revenue ..	750 0 0	Hospitals, ditto ..	809 19 11
Reimbursements in aid ..	55 16 0	Police and gaols, ditto ..	481 7 7
Postage	25 1 9	Rent	58 17 5
Sale of Government property ..	7 14 5	Transport	317 9 0
Auction duty	53 12 4	Works and buildings ..	4,139 7 4
	15,518 15 0	Roads, streets, and bridges ..	458 12 7
		Miscellaneous services ..	216 9 10
		Government vessels, exclusive of establishments ..	113 2 10
		Aborigines	288 18 0
		Drawbacks and refund of duties ..	253 4 3
		Special services	1,374 10 10
		Total	20,236 16 11

No. 16.

No. 16.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 116. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 8, 1870.

I HAVE perused a memorandum dated the 12th ultimo, and sent to this office by Mr. Fowler, Acting Collector and Treasurer at the Gambia, furnishing information relative to that settlement in connection with the question of its transfer to the French Government; and I have to request that you will instruct the Acting Administrator to convey my thanks to Mr. Fowler for his useful and important statement.

Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 12. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

March 21, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting Administrator, Gambia, covering the Report of Mr. Fowler, who ascended the River in Her Majesty's ship "Peterel."

Mr. Fowler's statement of the beneficial effects resulting from periodical visits of a gun-boat, is, I am glad to say, corroborative of the opinion I have on former occasions had the honour to submit to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 17.
25 Feb., 1870.

Enclosure 1 in No. 17.

The Acting Administrator to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 17. Gambia.)

Government House, February 25, 1870.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's ship "Peterel," Commander the Honourable Ernest Cochrane, arrived here on the 13th instant, bringing me a letter from Commodore McDowell, informing me he had dispatched that ship for the purpose of making the periodical visit to the upper branches of the Gambia.

Unable myself, from temporary indisposition, to proceed up the river, I deputed Mr. Fowler, the Acting Collector and Treasurer, to accompany Captain Cochrane and represent me.

I took advantage of so good an opportunity to ask the Commander to take Captain Niven on board his ship, as I was desirous of sending the Superintendent of Police to McCarthy's Island to inspect and report upon the state of the police at that station. To this request Captain Cochrane was good enough to accede, I am therefore able to transmit, for your Excellency's information, the Superintendent's report, a report in the details of which I fully concur.

Finding it was not probable the "Peterel" would be able to proceed (from depth of water) much further up the river than to a place called Cassang I caused a small steam launch to be hired for the purpose of accompanying the ship so far, and to take Captain Niven from thence up to McCarthy's Island and to bring Mr. Tanner, the manager, down to where the "Peterel" anchored.

In making this arrangement I trust your Excellency will approve, as I made it, since my acquaintance with the native character has taught me, the more the person in immediate authority over them is honoured and treated with consideration by those superior to himself, so much the more are they inclined to act submissively towards him. Hence, when it is considered the isolated post over which Mr. Tanner is in charge, with no force at his command in case of emergency for its protection, makes me of opinion, it is only politic to as much as possible impress the surrounding savages with the manager's importance, and power to bring at any moment an overwhelming force to bear on them should the necessity arise.

With regard to the trip itself, I shall confine myself to merely informing your Excellency that the "Peterel" left on the 14th and returned to Bathurst on 21st instant, for as I do myself the honour to attach to this despatch Mr. Fowler's able and interesting account of all that took place up the river, you will so be better informed, than by any report I might myself have drawn up from his.

I would, however, add, that I am entirely of Mr. Fowler's opinion relative to subsidizing important Kings and Chiefs in the upper river, as being the only humane and least expensive means, towards putting a stop to the atrocities which certain Mahomedan fanatics in the name of religion have been almost uninterruptedly carrying on for the last seven years, and which from all accounts, they propose making a war of extermination.

It remains for me only to state that, availing myself of Captain Cochrane's courtesy and desire to meet my wishes, I requested him on the day of his departure (23rd instant, for England) to lay out the red buoy. To this he acceded, and I believe it is now placed in its proper position, and where, I am informed, much inconvenience has arisen to the shipping from the delay on its not having been laid out before this date. It appears this buoy was sent from England as far back as a year ago, but no means had been found for laying it out until the present opportunity offered.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEX. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

Encl. 2 in No. 17.

Captain Niven to Major Bravo.

Sir,

Police Office, Bathurst, February 23, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival from McCarthy's Island, after having, as you requested, made an inspection of the Police Force in that island. I am sorry to have to report the very ineffective state of the Force, being composed, as it is, of old men thoroughly unfit for the duties required of them: only one man in the island has been any length of time in the Service, he having been twenty-six years, and is now the sergeant in charge, the others must have been old men when engaged, as none have more than eighteen months' service; and Mr. Tanner, the manager, informed me that it was impossible, on account of the low rate of pay, to get young men to join the Force, and consequently he was obliged to fill vacancies as best he could. The sergeant is now perfectly useless from old age. As the sergeant in charge is also gaoler, a young and active man is required for the situation.

I would humbly suggest to your Excellency that, when the Police Force is reorganized in Bathurst, that a draft of constables should be sent to McCarthy's Island to replace those who are unfit for duty; and that the pay should slightly be increased, as living in the island is 50 per cent. more expensive than in Bathurst. The sergeant in McCarthy's Island is anxious to retire, and would beg that some consideration to his long service would be granted him.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

K. ROWAN NIVEN,

Superintendent of Police.

His Excellency Major Bravo,
Administrator.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Encl. 3 in No. 17.

Mr. Fowler to Major Bravo.

Sir,

Bathurst, River Gambia, February 23, 1870.

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions I embarked on board Her Majesty's ship "Peterel," under the command of Captain the Honourable Ernest Cochrane, on Monday the 14th instant, leaving Bathurst about 4 p.m., en route for McCarthy's Island.

The depth of water not allowing the ship to proceed further, anchor was dropped off Cassang, a town about 160 miles up the river. I was induced to request Captain Cochrane to remain at this spot, as recent disturbances had there taken place.

In the evening of the 15th I landed with Captain Cochrane and Captain Niven, the Superintendent of Police, and found that the town was in a state of anticipated attack from the Marabouts, who had made several attempts to take it which had been successfully frustrated by the Soninkees: a horrible trophy of their success was exhibited in the shape of a Marabout's head, hoisted on a stake, which had been very recently cut off, presenting a ghastly sight.

I met the Chief and requested him to inform the King of Calabar, who is the head of the Soninkees in that part of the country, that I had arrived on behalf of the Governor in a man-of-war to inquire into disturbances that were going on, as it was the wish of the Government to endeavour to make peace between them, and I should be glad to see him on my return from McCarthy's Island.

On the following morning I proceeded in the steam-launch to McCarthy's Island, with Captains Cochrane and Niven, arriving there about 2 o'clock on the 16th. Mr. Tanner informed me that the island was peaceable, but that the petty fighting between the Marabouts and Soninkees, which has been going on almost uninterruptedly for the last seven years, was still raging along both banks of the river.

The health of the island was good, but the cholera epidemic had left sad ravages behind, not only on the island, but wherever it had appeared on the mainland.

The Upper River, extending above McCarthy's Island, I heard on all sides is an utter failure as regards any trading transaction for this season. The people

are in a state of the most abject destitution, brought on by the constant warfare amongst themselves, which appears now to have been carried to its culminating point, as children are now willingly sold for half a bag of rice each. With the prospect of a rainy season before them, it is not hard to foretell the complete ruin which must befall the whole of that territory.

From the observations I have been enabled to make from two visits up the river, I can come to no other conclusion but to strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of some active measures being taken in the present crisis, not only in the interest of the trading community, but that of a nobler duty, viz, humanity. The only feasible plan which I see, and one which I believe is fully concurred in by all parties, of putting a stop to the disastrous wars which have wasted the country, is to further the friendly relations which have already been entered into with Bareary Sardah, a powerful Chief living in Bundoo, who is able and can at his own will and pleasure keep the peace, and cause it to be kept. Mr. Tanner informs me that Bareary's messengers have intimated to him the desire of the King to enter into more cordial relations with the English, and that he is anxious to trade with McCarthy's Island. This Chief's services could, I believe, be easily secured by an adequate custom being paid him, and it is in his power to divert a large portion of the trade to the Gambia, which now finds its outlet down the Senegal, Cassamancee, and other rivers. This Chief has already been decorated with the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

Any expense that might be incurred in cultivating the good-will of Bareary Sardah would, I feel sure, be amply repaid by the protection that would be afforded to trade, and by the security that would be ensured to the country.

I visited the various mercantile houses on the island, and received but gloomy reports from all.

We left McCarthy's Island on the following morning about 10 o'clock, taking Mr. Tanner with us, as I thought it advisable he should be present at the "palaver" appointed to take place at Cassang, and rejoined the "Peterel" in the evening, having visited the several trading stations and villages on our way down.

On Friday morning I was duly informed that the King of Calabar and Chief of Yan Bantang had arrived, and I went on shore accompanied with the officers of the ship to meet them. The result of our interview was a request on their part for our interference, but that of course I could not entertain, as I pointed out the neutral position we occupied, and that our only desire was peace for the good of all. There appears no doubt but that the Marabouts, who are Mahometans, are the aggressors. I invited the King and Chiefs on board, and a demonstration was made by firing shells, which appeared to make a very sensible impression on them.

We then dropped down the river to Yanamaroo, arriving in the evening on the same day. The next morning I went on shore, and found the Chief had left, evidently from fear of the man-of-war. This town had lately been taken, and sacked by a party of Marabouts, and partly burnt down; dead bodies were lying round the stockade. I took the headman on board, and told him that the Governor wanted peace, and would have no more fighting, &c. A shell was fired for his edification, which seemed to impress him more fully than anything that was said to him.

Doomasangsang was the next place we stopped at, and we went up the creek some thirty miles in the launch, and visited the various towns. Trade seemed to be flourishing here, for we passed two large vessels loading ground-nuts in the creek, and evidence of much activity prevailed. The Chiefs all visited the ship, and were much awe-struck at the powers she possessed, which they had an opportunity of witnessing, much to their astonishment.

These Chiefs appear to be worthy of some consideration, as the traders all informed me that they afforded them every protection in their power. I accordingly made presents to each on behalf of the Government, giving orders on the several traders.

There cannot be the slightest doubt but that the presence of a ship-of-war in the river creates a most powerful impression on the natives, and if the suggestion relative to the Upper River is carried out, and a gun-boat or Colonial vessel could be stationed at Bathurst, ready for any emergency, I am convinced that by judicious management the whole intercourse of the river could be brought under control without the slightest necessity of any complications arising, or of our embroiling ourselves with the natives. A cruise of a man-of-war only once a-year up the river soon becomes known to the natives, who are apt to take advantage of the

circumstances; and it is only too evident that a gun-boat stationed at Bathurst would obviate the necessity of troops being detained in the Colony, or in their absence, the inauguration of an extensive Police Force.

Having visited the important stations on the river, we weighed anchor and proceeded on till we reached Bathurst on Monday morning at 7 A.M., when I had the honour of reporting myself to your Excellency.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of the great courtesy and assistance I received from Captain Cochrane, whose aid and advice were exceedingly valuable in creating the impression you desired on the native mind, and who so willingly seconded my efforts to carry out the objects of our expedition.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Major A. Bravo,
Administrator.

(Signed) HENRY FOWLER.

No. 18.

No. 18.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 118. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 18, 1870.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 12* of the 21st ultimo, covering one from the Acting Administrator of the Gambia, and Mr. Fowler's report of his ascent of the River Gambia in Her Majesty's ship "Peterel."

* Page 15.

The state of the Police at McCarthy's Island, as described in the letter of the Superintendent of Police at Bathurst, is such as to require your attention.

I have, &c.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 19.

No. 19

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(Confidential. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

March 29, 1870.

YOUR Lordship's Confidential despatch, dated 21st February, 1870,* requesting that I will report whether any serious reluctance is to be anticipated on the part of the natives to the transfer of the Gambia to the French, only reached me this day, owing to my absence from the Settlement on the arrival of the mail of the 12th of March.

* Page 8.

Though your Lordship does not make the same inquiry regarding Europeans, I shall begin by stating my opinion with regard to them.

There are five English, and four French mercantile establishments at the Gambia. The total number of Europeans not exceeding fifty.

I believe that the transfer would be far from popular with the French residents, who greatly prefer carrying on business under British rather than French rule.

Of the British traders, I believe that none are in a prosperous condition, and that some are on the eve of winding up, and retiring from a business no longer profitable.

The Table of Imports and Exports, published (in the "Gazette" herewith), for 1869, will show the value and character of the trade at present carried on.

The subject of transfer has been discussed at the Gambia, and, as far as I can learn, with the result that the interest taken in it by the British merchants, extends only to the prospect of being bought out of their at present unprofitable business and investments.

There has been a falling-off in the revenue of the Settlement for 1869, amounting to 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.*, or one-fourth of the whole revenue,—a sufficient indication of the unprofitable character of business.

The native population is mixed, and in number about 4,000. They have no strong, united, or national feeling, such as obtains elsewhere on the coast; and I do not believe that any serious reluctance or opposition would be offered by them on

learning the equitable and safe terms which would of course be agreed upon as regards their rights and property.

If the French Government can obtain, or count upon, the co-operation and sympathy of the French *residents* at the Gambia, I do not apprehend the slightest difficulty in the transfer; and I think this is the first and most important fact to be ascertained, and the first step to be taken as a coalition between them and the few British traders, would strengthen the hands of both if they were disposed to offer resistance to the transfer.

The natives are docile, and would be easily influenced if their rights and property were previously guaranteed.

Some of the strongest arguments in favour of the proposed transfer of the Settlement at the Gambia, are to be found in a recent letter addressed to your Lordship signed by the principal merchants at the Gambia, dated 13th August, 1869, (wherein the "four French" merchants do *not* join), to which I would beg to refer your Lordship.

Your Lordship will observe it is there stated, that the combined Civil and Military expenditure of the Settlement amounts to 40,000*l.* a-year; and your Lordship will further learn, from the accompanying "Gazette," that the total imports for 1869, amounted to 94,000*l.* only.

I shall, in the ordinary course of duty, probably visit the Gambia as soon as more pressing business will permit; but should your Lordship deem it advisable, I shall proceed there as soon as I receive instructions to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor-in-chief.

incl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Extracts from "Government Gazette" of February 16, 1870.

STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of Her Majesty's Settlements on the River Gambia for the Year 1869.

REVENUE.	Amount.	EXPENDITURE.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Customs	12,386 4 10	Civil establishments	6,847 6 6
Licences	920 0 0	Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	405 6 4
Rents, exclusive of land	632 15 5	Revenue services, exclusive of establishment	242 3 6
Land revenue	247 19 0	Administration of Justice, ditto	152 3 9
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	63 8 2	Charitable allowances	156 9 6
Miscellaneous receipts	376 3 1	Education, exclusive of establishment	210 16 1
Receipts in aid of revenue	750 0 0	Hospitals, ditto	482 19 0
Reimbursements in aid	55 16 0	Police and gaols, ditto	436 8 3
Postage	25 1 9	Rent	58 17 5
Sale of Government property	7 14 5	Transport	177 18 0
Auction duty	53 12 4	Works and buildings	3,335 18 10
Repayment of advances to Heads of Departments	1,416 11 6	Roads, streets, and bridges	458 12 7
Deposit account	316 7 1	Miscellaneous services	101 3 0
Local improvements	401 8 0	Government vessels, exclusive of establishment	82 11 10
Total	17,653 1 7	Aborigines	288 18 0
		Drawbacks and refund of duties	253 4 3
		Special services	592 8 7
		Advances to Heads of Departments	1,455 3 4
		Repayment of deposits	119 0 0
		Local improvements	224 0 2
		Remittances to Crown agents	5,750 0 0
		Total	21,831 8 11

STATEMENT of Imports into the Settlements of Bathurst, Gambia, for the Year
ending December 31, 1869.

Articles.	Amount.			Articles.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Ale and porter	1,277	15	5	Metal, in sheets and rods	43	4	0
Amber and coral	1,153	0	0	Musical instruments	3	0	0
Ammunition	131	9	0	Nails	29	4	3
Anchors and chains	109	11	4	Oars	79	0	6
Asphalte and asphalted felt	59	4	8	Oats and barley	1	11	9
Bags (empty)	571	4	11	Oil, edible	92	19	0
Beads	657	19	1	„ lamp	563	16	7
Bitters	6	0	0	Paint, paint oil, and turpen	379	1	6
Blue and starch	195	9	3	Paving stones	67	7	6
Brass rods	64	10	10	Perfumery	163	0	1
Bread and biscuits	914	18	5	Pipes	4	12	4
Bricks and tiles	1,248	6	0	Pitch, tar, and rosin	70	10	0
Candles	518	0	0	Provision	1,827	19	4
Canvas	117	12	9	Rice	13,308	6	4
Cement	12	0	0	Saddlery	2	10	0
Cigars	17	5	9	Salt	499	8	0
Coals (patent fuel)	32	6	6	Shingles	359	0	4
Coffee	88	6	3	Ships' chandlery	230	8	11
Cola nuts	8,915	0	0	Soap	1,475	17	3
Cordage and twine	570	8	9	Spars	44	13	0
Corks	6	8	0	Spices	21	19	0
Cotton cards	141	17	0	Spirits—			
„ goods	16,545	12	0	Absinthe	416	18	0
„ yarn	1,518	5	0	Brandy	829	6	0
Clocks	2	2	0	Gin, sweetened	102	0	11
Cowries	7	4	6	„ not sweetened	1,294	4	2
Cutlasses and swords	197	15	0	Liqueur	208	10	0
Cutlery	53	4	0	Rum	6,454	18	10
Earthenware	179	8	2	Stationery	337	5	7
Flour	2,014	4	3	Sugar	2,298	6	3
Fruits and vegetables	66	2	0	Sundries	954	2	1
Furnitures	303	3	6	Syrup	34	4	0
Glassware	147	15	0	Tallow	19	10	0
Guns and pistols	2,560	6	4	Tea	10	6	6
Gunpowder	2,142	16	0	Tobacco, unmanufactured	9,228	13	10
Haberdashery	230	3	9	„ manufactured	25	0	0
Hardware	2,247	2	7	Varnish	40	3	2
Hide poison	23	4	0	Vinegar	6	12	3
Iron bars	482	15	10	Waters, mineral	134	5	6
„ pots	110	10	6	Wearing apparel	2,320	3	10
Leather, manufactured	159	8	10	Wine	2,253	0	11
Lemonade	110	12	9	Woodware	243	8	6
Lime white	28	10	0	Woollen goods	106	10	0
Lumber	1,344	4	10	Zinc	84	12	0
Matches	30	1	4				
Medicines	34	13	0	Total	94,027	11	1

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain	46,630	8	10
France	12,148	7	5
West Indies (British)	4,362	16	8
Madeira	12	10	0
Teneriffe	44	14	0
Windward Coast	15,473	6	6
Leeward Coast	9,141	6	10
America (United States of)	6,214	0	10
Total	94,027	11	1

STATEMENT of Exports from the Settlements of Bathurst, Gambia, for the Year
ending December 31, 1869.

Articles.	Amount.	Articles.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Ivory	307 10 0	Ale and porter	76 0 0
Leather, manufactured	7 0 0	Ammunition	11 16 0
Live stock (cattle)	192 0 0	Asphalte	180 0 0
Metal (old)	140 0 0	Bags (empty)	50 5 0
Palm kernels	908 0 0	Beads	35 6 0
Perfumery	7 10 0	Blue and starch	4 0 0
Provisions	202 10 0	Candles	78 0 0
Rice (foreign)	1,076 0 0	Corn (produce)	70 0 0
Soap	1 15 5	Cotton, raw	324 15 0
Sundries	80 0 0	„ goods	1,573 10 0
Sugar	7 7 4	„ yarn	14 10 0
Spirits—		Cordage and twine	12 0 0
Brandy	94 0 0	Cloves	3 10 0
Gin, sweetened	4 0 0	Cola nuts	98 0 0
„ not sweetened	1 10 0	Cutlasses and swords	6 10 0
Liqueur	1 0 0	Earthenware	11 0 0
Rum	211 2 0	Flour	324 10 0
Tobacco, manufactured	172 16 3	Furniture	4 0 0
„ unmanufactured	1,013 7 2	Guns and pistols	170 4 0
Wax, clean	8,589 10 0	Ground-nuts	73,966 2 0
Wearing apparel	95 0 0	Gunpowder	50 0 0
Wine	104 16 0	Hardware	31 5 0
Total	91,998 5 2	Hides	1,666 6 0
		Iron bars	7 2 0
		„ pots	13 0 0

RECAPITULATION.

	£ s. d.
Great Britain	20,047 14 0
France	56,661 8 0
United States	5,716 3 0
Leeward Coast	1,980 15 4
Windward Coast	3,698 11 6
West Indies (British)	3,893 13 4
Total	91,998 5 2

No. 20.

No. 20.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1870.

WITH reference to the subject of the proposed exchange of territory with the French on the West Coast of Africa, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to transmit to you, for Earl Granville's consideration, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Lord Lyons stating the conditions upon which the French Government are prepared to agree to the proposals that his Excellency has been instructed to make to them upon this subject.

Lord Clarendon would be glad to be favoured with Earl Granville's opinion upon the reply of the French Government.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

Encl. 1 in No. 20.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

The Lord Lyons to the Earl of Clarendon, K.G.

My Lord,

Paris, March 31, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a *note verbale* which has just been put into my hands by Count Daru.

It expresses the views of the French Government with regard to the proposed exchange of territory on the West Coast of Africa.

The Earl of Clarendon,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Encl. 2 in No. 20.

Note Verbale.

PAR un note verbale du mois de Février dernier, son Excellence Lord Lyons a fait savoir au Gouvernement de l'Empereur que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique serait disposé à échanger avec la France certains territoires sur la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique. L'Angleterre céderait la Gambie, et les points qu'elle occupe au nord de la Rivière Dembia. En retour la France abandonnerait ses droits sur toute la partie comprise entre la Dembia et la Rivière Sheba inclusive-ment.

Après examen de cette proposition et des réserves de détail qui l'accompagne, le Gouvernement de l'Empereur consent à y adhérer aux conditions suivantes :—

1. Que les sujets Français jouiront sur toute l'étendue des territoires au sud de la Dembia, dont la souveraineté ou le protectorat seront reconnus à l'Angleterre, de la même protection et des mêmes droits que les sujets Anglais, entre autres du droit de posséder des immeubles.

2. Que ceux d'entre eux qui auront avant l'échange formé des établissements dans les rivières cédées au Gouvernement Anglais continueront à jouir des droits et immunités qui leur étaient acquis à la condition de se soumettre aux lois de l'Angleterre.

3. Que les taxes et droits de douane, de navigation, ou d'ancrage seront les mêmes pour les marchandises et bâtiments Français que ceux imposés aux marchandises et bâtiments Anglais.

Il est bien entendu que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur accorderait dans les possessions Françaises une réciprocité complète à ces divers titres.

No. 21.

No. 21.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

No. 17. (Gambia.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,

My Lord,

April 19, 1870.

1. IN the belief that detailed information in regard to the Settlement of the Gambia may be useful to your Lordship, I have directed my attention to that subject, and have now the honour to submit the following facts which, if not strictly accurate, are sufficiently so for all general purposes.

2. A statement of revenue and expenditure for 1869 (herewith), shows a deficit of 4,718*l.* (which is fortunately provided for in the general balance remaining in the Colonial chest), and further exhibits a falling-off to the extent of 5,000*l.* from the previous year's revenue.

3. I believe there will be a still further falling-off in the revenue for 1870.

4. I have adverted to and anticipated this falling-off in former despatches.

5. I transmit herewith a copy of the "Government Gazette" exhibiting the imports and exports of the Settlement for the year 1869.

6. Your Lordship will observe that the value of imports amounts to 91,207*l.*, of which Great Britain contributes but one-half.

7. The exports amount to the value of 91,000*l.*, of which only 20,000*l.*, or about one-fifth, is exported to Great Britain.

8. The shipping still more clearly demonstrates the nationality of the trade of the Settlement.

9. A total of 188 ships which entered in 1869 shows only 34 entered from Great Britain, 21 being direct from France, and 90 from Senegal and Goree, the balance being from Leeward Coast, America, and West Indies.

10. It is further important to observe that of the 34 entered from Great Britain 20 were mail-steamers, subsidized to call at the port, whose aggregate tonnage was 5,700 tons.

11. Deducting these 13 vessels from the total of 34, would leave the tonnage

thus, 13 vessels from Great Britain, representing 3,286 tons, against 111 French vessels with a tonnage of 11,495 tons.

12. Of a total of 198 vessels which cleared from the port of Bathurst in 1869, 39 went to Great Britain and 110 to France; of the 39 to Great Britain, 19 were the subsidized mail-steamers.

13. I need not trouble your Lordship with my deductions from these figures and facts.

14. If it be decided to negotiate with France for the transfer of this Settlement, the following information may be acceptable to your Lordship:—

15. There are four English commercial houses, 2 of which are conducted by resident principals, and two by agents. All are restricting their business, and one about to withdraw altogether.

16. There are four French houses who are, on the contrary, extending their business, investing in and improving business premises. They have, in this respect, already invested as much as the English.

17. I need not account for these facts in detail; suffice it to say the trade by barter, from which the English trader derived his profit, is in rapid process of being superseded by cash transactions of the French trader.

18. This change must necessitate the entire recastings of the fiscal arrangements of the Settlement, which must be soon looked to.

19. The bulk of the revenue has been hitherto derived from imports, which is now superseded (or about to be) by cash, which is not spent in the Settlement.

20. Your Lordship will thus observe that the character of the trade has wholly changed within a few years.

21. An analysis of the transactions of the English and French houses respectively, leads to the following conclusions:—

22. The struggle between English and French traders in this Settlement must, in my opinion, ere long, result in the ruin or retirement of the former.

23. I believe the amount of capital at present employed by the French considerably exceeds that of the English.

24. I am of opinion that the rumoured transfer would not be regarded with disfavour by the English population.

25. I need not stop to account for the falling-off of the revenue. Derived as it is from the growth of ground-nuts, it must ever be fluctuating and precarious. Ground-nuts are now grown in the Southern States of America, a dangerous competitor of the Gambia.

26. There cannot be a more favourable time for negotiation, if Her Majesty's Government decide upon retiring from the Gambia. A year hence the "consideration" will bear a very different aspect.

27. The withdrawal of the troops will entail an increased charge for the Police upon a decreasing revenue.

28. At present all the advantages derived from the Settlement are enjoyed by the French, while the responsibility of its maintenance devolves upon Great Britain. The French trade contributing little or nothing towards its expenditure or protection, and the French houses settled there fully appreciate this (to them desirable) state of things.

29. Any opposition which would probably be offered would be the noise made by a few persons locally interested to enhance the value of their property.

30. I trust I am not trespassing on your Lordship's patience by alluding to geographical considerations.

31. The Rivers Gambia and Senegal run nearly parallel to each other; the former, navigable for 300 miles, and nearly uniting at their sources, would give the French a valuable and cheap means of controlling the territory lying between them, which is valueless to us.

32. The turbulent and fanatical population in the interior can never be civilized by, and must always be a source of disquiet to, Great Britain.

33. I have purposely avoided repetition of what I have before written on this subject, and will wait your Lordship's direction before I again write upon it; but something must be speedily done if the Settlements of the Gambia is not again to become a charge upon Imperial funds.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21

STATEMENT of the Revenue and Expenditure of Her Majesty's Settlements on the Gambia for the Year 1869.

REVENUE.	Amount.			EXPENDITURE.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Customs	12,386	4	10	Civil establishments	9,821	18	2
Licenses	920	0	0	Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	1,141	6	4
Rents, exclusive of land ..	632	15	5	Revenue services, exclusive of establishments	242	3	6
Land revenue	247	19	0	Administration of Justice, ditto ..	152	3	9
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court ..	63	8	2	Charitable allowances	156	9	6
Miscellaneous receipts	376	3	1	Education, exclusive of establishments ..	210	16	1
Receipts in aid of revenue	750	0	0	Hospitals, ditto	809	19	11
Reimbursements in aid	55	16	0	Police and gaols, ditto	481	7	7
Postage	25	1	9	Rent	58	17	5
Sale of Government property	7	14	5	Transport	317	9	0
Auction duty	53	12	4	Works and buildings	4,139	7	4
	15,518	15	0	Roads, streets, and bridges	458	12	7
				Miscellaneous services	216	9	10
				Government vessels, exclusive of establishments	113	2	10
				Aborigines	288	18	0
				Drawbacks and refund of duties	253	4	3
				Special services	1,374	10	10
					20,236	16	11

No. 22.

No. 22.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(Confidential. Gambia.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,

My Lord,

April 23, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Confidential despatch dated the 21st February, 1870,* requesting me to report whether any serious reluctance to the transfer of the Gambia to the French is to be anticipated on the part of the natives, and what means I should recommend in order to overcome that reluctance if it should appear to exist.

* Page 8.

2. It was necessary for me to make some further inquiries before answering so important a question, and hence the delay in replying to your Lordship's despatch.

3. I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to my despatch Gambia, No. 17,† dated the 19th April, 1870, by this mail, in which the subject of your Lordship's Confidential despatch is touched upon.

† Page 23.

4. I may shortly report to your Lordship that I do not anticipate any serious reluctance on the part of the natives under our rule to the proposed transfer.

5. The inhabitants of Bathurst are a mixed body, unwarlike, and, as has been proved by the military protection we have been often compelled to afford them, quite incapable of defending themselves against their warlike and fanatical Mahometan neighbours, who are steadily increasing in numbers and influence and who can only be kept in check by military control.

6. A frank and fair exposition of the state of affairs, and the reason for the transfer being explained to the inhabitants of Bathurst, would, I think, reconcile them to the change.

7. I should propose to inform the natives that, in view of the small commercial interest which Great Britain has in the settlement, we could not justify the continuance of a military expenditure for their protection at present amounting to little short of 34,000*l.* a-year, and that the history of the settlement abundantly proves they are unable to protect themselves when the British troops and gun-boats are withdrawn.

8. They should be assured that their rights and property would be respected, and that the sole object of Great Britain in making the transfer is to place them

under their protection of an enlightened nation who could, by reason of their neighbouring possessions more effectually protect them from the periodical raids of the barbarous tribes surrounding them, and at the same time encourage their staple trade, which was carried on mainly with France.

9. The British residents should be informed to the same effect.

10. They should be further informed that if Great Britain continues the occupation of the settlement, the British residents must be prepared to submit to the increased taxation (estimated by their Council at 5,000*l.* per annum) necessary for the maintenance of an efficient police force.

11. I may here glance at the amount of pecuniary interest which the British subjects possess in the settlement.

12. I have in another despatch pointed out that there are but three English mercantile houses in Bathurst. If they are not content with the advantage of selling out to the French firms, the true value of their interests could be easily arrived at by considering the settlement in the light of a firm whose commercial transactions are represented (as I have shown) by imports and exports amounting to 90,000*l.*, and calculating a fair annual profit upon this amount, not forgetting at the same time to consider the precarious nature of the trade and climate to be contended against.

13. The value of *real estate* in the whole Settlement is easily estimated.

14. The principal street of Bathurst contains twenty-four houses, comprising all the mercantile establishments (French and English), which would be highly valued at 3,000*l.* each, making a total of 72,000*l.*

15. There are twenty-six houses in the second street, of an average value of 500*l.* each, making a total of 13,000*l.*

16. The remaining rent-estate in the Settlement may be put down at a total value of 5,000*l.*

17. The French portion of the population would not, I presume, offer any open opposition to the transfer, though I entertain no doubt that it would be distasteful and detrimental to their interests as matters at present stand; but if it were pointed out to them that increased taxation, from which they are now exempt, must be imposed, and of a nature to *reach them*, they would probably modify "their views."

18. I should next reply to your Lordship's question as to the means I would recommend to overcome this reluctance, should such exist.

19. I should myself proceed to Bathurst, when authorized by your Lordship to do so, and confer with the merchants and traders, to explain and support such actions as your Lordship may, on full consideration, decide upon.

20. Writing and talking there undoubtedly will be, whether the transfer be advantageous to the traders or no; but resistance of any kind there cannot be.

21. I should be authorized to inform the public officers that their interests would be considered in giving them equivalent employment elsewhere, or reasonable compensation for the loss of office till they were re-employed.

22. This would entail little expense, as I can see my way to absorb all the principal officers by employment in the other Settlements, and would at once stop all further permanent appointments till they are provided for.

23. I feel some confidence in being able, by personal communication, to satisfy any scruples of the natives to whom the transfer would make no appreciable difference.

24. The French merchants can influence all those employed by, and connected with them, and the French Government at Senegal should be authorized to impress upon these gentlemen the expediency of using their personal influence to facilitate the transfer, and, above all, to abstain from making common cause with any objectors, whether British or native.

25. If the matter be not so mismanaged as to make it the interest of all three parties to combine, the opposition will be trifling indeed.

26. * * * * *

27. The presence of a French and English gun-boat would be most desirable, and McCarthy's Island should be occupied by a small force of French native troops for a time, at least.

28. If it were made known that the English garrison would (as I presume it would be) at once be replaced by a French force, it would relieve the apprehension and loss by small traders, resulting from the withdrawal of British troops.

29. I think the best assurance that there will be little opposition or reluctance to the transfer, is to be found in the fact that, though it has been anticipated for

some time, and the subject freely discussed, no remonstrance (that I know of) has reached your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 23.

No. 23.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(Extract.)

(No. 20. Gambia.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,

My Lord,

April 30, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a despatch (No. 32 of the 22 April, 1870) from the Administrator, Gambia, covering a petition from merchants, traders, mechanics, and other inhabitants of Gambia, relative to the rumoured transfer of that settlement to the French Government.

I also transmit the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Administrator by this mail on the subject of that petition.

I have consulted an officer who has resided for many years at Bathurst, and has personal knowledge of every individual of any status or property residing there.

He informs me that there are a very limited number (probably four or five) of the persons whose names are appended to the Petition, who have any property or stake in the Settlement.

* * * * *

I need not trouble your Lordship with any comments upon the Petition: its innate absurdity, and the entire absence of the names of any educated or responsible person render it of little weight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Encl. 1 in No. 23.

The Administrator of the Government to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 32. Gambia.)

Sir,

Government House, April 22, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward a petition addressed to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, from merchants, traders, mechanics, and other inhabitants residing in this Colony, relative to the rumoured transfer of these Settlements to the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEXANDER BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Enc 2 in No. 23.

Petition from the People of Gambia.

To the Right Honourable Earl Granville, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Settlements on the Gambia.

Showeth,—

THAT your Petitioners are merchants, traders, mechanics, and other inhabitants residing in the settlements on the River Gambia.

That your Petitioners being informed that negotiations are being carried on between Her Majesty's Government and the French Government, for the abandon-

ment of the settlements on the Gambia to the latter, feel that they cannot be silent and sit quietly when arrangements are being made which will eventually (if effected) launch them under a different Government, different manners, customs, and institutions.

Your Petitioners are emboldened thus to approach your Lordship, not simply on the ground of the encouragement given to your Petitioners to suggest reforms and complaints when there are grievances to complain of; but your Petitioners at this crisis are aware that every step that is taken by Her Majesty's Government to abandon the settlements on the Gambia, and hand them over to the French Government is a step tending to rid them of their ancient birthright and their own privileges, such as having been born, bred, and reared up under the flag of England, according to English laws, manners, and customs.

Your Petitioners can assure your Lordship that the love of country, which is an inherent quality in every man's breast, is the same, of the same degree in the breast of the Colonist as in the breast of the Englishman, and just as the Englishman would feel if his country was on the eve of being handed over to another Government, the Colonist has the same feeling; and the Colonists, too, your Lordship have more to complain of. They are to be handed over to a foreign Government by the very hands which have fostered and brought them to their present position; and, besides these, negotiations are being carried on without your Petitioners (many of whom are natives of the Gambia) having an opportunity of expressing before the commencement of these negotiations their utter disapproval, and if it were not for rumours which have been afloat your Petitioners would not even have been privileged to express their humble disapproval of such an abandonment.

Identified with this love of country are the laws, manners, customs, and institutions. It is these that make the love of country dear to your Petitioners, and if your Petitioners are bereft of these old and accustomed privileges, and thrown uncharitably in the midst of different manners and customs, with the institutions of their country withdrawn and overthrown, that love of country which your Petitioners consider the dearest of all ties, shall be wantonly encroached upon, and your Petitioners themselves sacrificed.

Your Lordship must of course be aware that just the same feeling that would prompt your Petitioners to withstand any foreign Power who attempted to make war in Her Majesty's settlements on the Gambia, with the object of subjecting Her Majesty's subjects to its power, and changing the laws, manners, and customs of the country, that that same feeling would prompt them, and is now prompting them, in order to retain their own laws, manners, and customs, humbly to pray Her Majesty not by her own act abandon her loyal subjects, and give them over to foreign Power, with its own laws and by her own act to ally your Petitioners to a people in every respect foreign to them in their habits and customs.

Your Lordship's Petitioners would humbly solicit your Lordship's attention to another reason why these settlements should not be given up to the French Government. At present these settlements are in a position to be self-supporting; the population amounts to about 20,000 inhabitants, and the revenue is 21,000*l.* It is true that 1,500*l.* is given annually by the mother-country in aid of the General Fund, but your Petitioners would far rather acquiesce in the withdrawal of this sum than for the settlements to be abandoned by the English Government, if it be that the Imperial Government is no longer willing to pay over as usual this amount.

Your Petitioners add that some legislation would only be necessary so as to make up the deficiency, if the sum already stated was withdrawn.

Your Petitioners would rather be put to an extra tax, than the mother-country should thus forsake them. Furthermore, by the last Government "*Gazette*," published here by authority, your Petitioners find that at the close of the present year, after all expenses have been paid, the estimated surplus money remaining in the Colonial Chest, will be 7,919*l.*, so that your Lordship will perceive that apparently the Settlements, if the Imperial grant was removed, are quite able to support themselves.

Nothing can be more detrimental to the interest of your Petitioners than the abandonment of the Settlements on the Gambia to the French Government; and your Petitioners can assure your Lordship that there is not a native merchant or trader in these Settlements who does not look on such a step as fraught with the greatest evils.

Your Petitioners can assure your Lordship, that since it has been rumoured here of the intended abandonment of the Settlements, it has been a subject-matter of regret by Her Majesty's loyal subjects; and your Lordship can easily be convinced of this statement by the numerous signatures appended to this Petition.

Your Petitioners cannot help stating, that a greater injustice could not be perpetrated than the transferring of 20,000 of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, by the act of Her Majesty's Government, to a foreign Potentate; and your Lordship's Petitioners beg to call your Lordship's attention to the fact, that many of them have been brought, and made to settle within these Settlements, through the instrumentality of the said Government. Others have been induced, as English subjects, to settle in these British Settlements, and purchase property to a large extent; and others, too, have been born and bred up in these Settlements, under the gracious auspices of Her Majesty's Government.

Your Petitioners humbly crave your Lordship's further attention to what would essentially be the result, if such an abandonment took place; those of your Petitioners who have got large stakes in the Settlements would either have to become subjects of the Emperor of the French, or sell out their property at a sacrifice, and quit the Settlements for some other country, where it would not be likely that British rule would cease therein in this or the next generation. Those of your Petitioners who have nothing to sell, even at a sacrifice, would be compelled, however unwilling, to remain under French rule and become French subjects, having been ruthlessly browned over by their own Government. These are grave considerations, which your Petitioners humbly and respectfully crave your Lordship's serious attention.

Although it would be unnecessary for your Petitioners here to comment upon the principles which bind the subject to the Sovereign, or the relationship existing between them, yet your Petitioners beg to call your Lordship's attention to one Constitutional maxim, an ancient and constant rule of Law: it is, "that the King cannot confer a favour on one subject, which occasions injury and loss to others." Now, on the one hand, if the abandonment confers a favour on the rest of Her Majesty's subjects by the saving of a large outlay of money annually, and therefore it is thought advisable to confer this favour; on the other, great injustice is done to those who are more immediately connected with the abandonment; in other words, those of course who would be handed over as locatees. The loss and injury arising to that portion of Her Majesty's subjects whom your Petitioners have designated as locatees, occasioned from this injustice, is quite palpable, and needs no further remark from your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners, in conclusion, beg to submit to your Lordship this Petition, for your favourable consideration, and the consideration of all those under whose notice it may be brought, humbly hoping that Her Majesty's Government will not abandon these Settlements on the Gambia and Her Majesty's loyal and loving subjects.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Bathurst, Gambia, April 1870.

(Signed)

H. FINDEN.
(And 517 others.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 23.

Encl. 3 in No. 23.

Sir A. Kennedy to the Administrator of the Government.

Extract.)

No. 34. Gambia.)

Sir,

Colonial Government, Sierra Leone,
April 30, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 32, dated 22nd April, 1870, forwarding a petition addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, by a number of persons who style themselves "Inhabitants of the Settlements on the Gambia," but whom you describe as "merchants, traders, mechanics, and other inhabitants."

This Petition is in the nature of a protest against a rumoured transfer of the Settlement at the Gambia from the English to the French Government.

The transmission of this document without any comment or explanation renders it impossible for me to offer a well-grounded opinion to Her Majesty's Secretary of State as to the weight or importance which may be properly attached to it.

I therefore beg to refer you to page 56, Colonial Regulations, which clearly lays

down the course proper to be pursued, and explains the object of such document being transmitted through the Administrator.

It may be a matter of moment that the Secretary of State should receive, together with the Petition, such authentic information as may enable him to judge of its importance; I have therefore to request you will obtain the following information without delay, and forward it direct to the Secretary of State, furnishing me with a copy:—

1. By whom was this Petition originated and promoted?
2. Whether it represents the property or intelligence of the Settlement.
3. What proportion of the Petitioners are Europeans, natives, foreigners, and Mulattoes respectively?
4. What is the social status of the Petitioners generally?

You will further please to transmit (see Regulations, p. 56) such further report as to the contents of the Petition, may appear to require.

From hasty inquiries which I have been enabled to make from those acquainted with the Settlement at Bathurst, I have been informed * * * that the great bulk of the Petitioners are * * * wholly without stake or property in the Settlement.

The statement of the Petitioners that the population of the Settlement amounts to 20,000, and that there will be a surplus balance of 7,919*l.* in the Colonial Chest at the close of the present year requires explanation.

These statements, whether accurate or not, should not be transmitted to the Secretary of State without some remarks to confirm or correct them.

I observe that whole pages of signatures are written by the same hand; it would therefore be desirable that some person of character should vouch for the genuineness of the signature or authority to sign.

It would, I am sure, be satisfactory to Earl Granville to learn your opinion as to whether many of those signing the Petition are competent to judge of or form a correct opinion on the subject of the Petition.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

His Excellency the Administrator, Gambia,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 24.

No. 24.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(Extract.)

My Lord,

Bathurst, Gambia, May 5, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at this Settlement. I immediately communicated with the Administrator on the subject of my despatch No. 20, dated 30th April, 1870 (Gambia), transmitting a Petition from certain inhabitants of this Settlement, on the subject of the proposed transfer of this Settlement to the French.

The short interval between the arrival and sailing of the homeward mail-steamer precludes the possibility of furnishing your Lordship with any detailed information. As to the status of the persons signing that Petition, a full statement will be transmitted by next mail.

I can, with some confidence, anticipate the Administrator's Report, by informing your Lordship that the person who heads the Petition, H. Finden, has no stake in the Settlement, * * *

* * * One native trader—a West Indian, is probably worth 2,000*l.* The remainder of the Petitioners have little or no stake in the Settlement, and a very large portion of them are not British subjects. No individual of any stake or standing in the Colony, whether British or French, has signed the Petition. A letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, has been handed to me by the Administrator. M. Joubert, Director of the Interior, Senegal, is now here, and he will be afforded any information he may require.

I have a personal acquaintance with the officer commanding the French gun-boat which has conveyed M. Joubert to this Settlement, which will probably facilitate our intercourse.

I shall of course afford these gentlemen all the information which may be

consistent with what I believe to be the view and wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Encl. 2 in No. 24.

The Governor of Senegal to Administrator of Gambia.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Saint Louis, April 25, 1870.

I SEND Mr. Joubert, Director of the Interior, to Gambia.

I beg your Excellency will forward the mission of this important functionary, which is to acquire on the spot certain information which has been demanded of me by the Minister at Paris, in view of an exchange of territory, of which, without doubt, you have been informed by your Government.

Pray accept, &c.
(Signed) V. VALIERE, Governor.

No. 25.

No. 25.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

No. 28. Gambia.)

Colonial Government, Sierra Leone,

My Lord,

May 10, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a letter and a Memorandum received from M. Joubert, Director of the Interior of the Colony of Senegal, marked and 2.

M. Joubert requested a Memorandum from me relative to the proposed boundary of the River Dembia, and I forward herewith a copy of the Memorandum which I furnished to him.

I had a long and satisfactory Conference with M. Joubert, who was undoubtedly much pleased with all he saw and heard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 25.

Encl. 1 in No 25.

The Governor of Senegal to the Administrator of Government, Gambia, dated St. Louis, April 25, 1870.

[See Enclosure in Sir A. Kennedy's despatch of 5th May, 1870, above.]

Enclosure 2 in No. 25.

Encl. 2 in No. 25.

Propositions relative to an Exchange of Territories on the West Coast of Africa

1. QUE le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté (avec le consentement du Parlement) céderait entièrement aux Français tous ses droits souverains et territoriaux sur la Rivière Gambia et n'acquerrait ou conserverait aucune souveraineté ou exercice d'influence politique sur aucune tribu indigène dans le voisinage d'aucune rivière de l'Afrique Septentrionale se jetant dans la mer au nord de l'embouchure de la Rivière Dembia.

2. Que, attendu que les droits du Gouvernement Anglais sur l'île de Bulama ou sur ses alentours sont contestés par les Portugais et se trouvent maintenant

soumis à l'arbitrage des Etats Unis, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne peut que promettre de céder à la France les mêmes droits tels qu'ils ressortiront de l'arbitrage en question.

3. Que le Gouvernement Français n'acquerra et ne conservera aucune souveraineté ou exercice d'influence politique à l'égard des indigènes établis dans le voisinage d'aucune branche ou d'aucun affluent de la Rivière Dembia ni d'aucun rivièrè se jetant dans l'océan ou entre cette rivière et la Rivière Shebat inclusive ment.

4. Que cet engagement n'empêchera pas le Gouvernement Anglais d'exiger des réparations des torts ou insultes qui pourraient lui être faits par des indigènes non sujets du Gouvernement Français, au nord ou à l'est de la Rivière Dembia, dans le cas où, après s'être adressé d'abord au Gouvernement Français pour obtenir réparation de ces torts, il ne lui aurait pas été donné satisfaction. Les mêmes réserves sont faites pour le Gouvernement Français et aux mêmes conditions, à l'égard des indigènes non sujets du Gouvernement Anglais, au sud et à l'ouest de la Dembia.

Les propositions ne pourront être considérées comme définitives jusqu'à ce qu'elles aient été sanctionnées par le Parlement et jusqu'à ce que les sentiments des indigènes aient été consultés au sujet du changement de souveraineté proposé.

Encl. 3 in No. 46.

Enclosure 3 in No. 25.

Memorandum for M. Joubert, Directeur de l'Intérieure de la Colonie du Sénégal.

THE boundary line of the River Dembia was suggested because the trade and prosperity of the Isles de Los, which have long been held and occupied by Great Britain, lie almost at the mouth of that river, and the contiguity of any European Power thereto might at any time lead to undesirable complications.

The Chiefs are in Treaty with, and the people are on terms of close amity with the British Government at Sierra Leone. I believe it to be the best and safest boundary between the territories or Protectorate of the two nations.

The very great advantages which would accrue to France by the transfer of the Gambia would, in my opinion, justify a much longer concession on the part of France than that which is proposed in the Memorandum handed to me by M. Joubert and I think I have fully demonstrated this at our conference of this morning.

I have never held another opinion than that the transfer on the terms proposed would tend in a large degree to the advantage of France, whether it be considered in a strategic, commercial, or political point of view.

Bathurst, May 7, 1870.

A. E. KENNEDY.

No. 26

No. 26.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 32. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

May 10, 1870

IN continuance of my despatch dated from Gambia (Bathurst) 5th May, 1870. I have the honour to report my further proceedings there. I invited all persons who had signed the Petition against the "abandonment" of the Settlement to meet me on the 7th May.

2. About eighty persons assembled. Mr. H. Finden (to whom I have before alluded) headed the Deputation.

3. I informed them that I had no official authority to state that the settlement would be transferred to France, but that I had little doubt such was the intention of Her Majesty's Government.

4. I pointed out the unreasonableness of Her Majesty's Government continuing a large military expenditure for the protection of a settlement where the trade was so insignificant and the resident Europeans so few.

5. I adverted to the approaching withdrawal of the troops and that the maintenance of peace and order in the settlement would require a large addition to the police and consequent increase of taxation.

6. That even under these circumstances, I believed that they would be wholly defenceless against native aggression when Great Britain renounced all further responsibility on behalf of the settlement, and hence they should be placed under the protection of France, who was able and willing to defend and forward civilization among them.

7. I assured them of the security of their rights and properties acquired under British rule being fully provided for and respected.

8. After going through all the arguments which appeared to me calculated to reconcile them to the proposed transfer, I invited the Deputation to ask any question they might deem pertinent.

9. The only questions of any importance asked were:—Would their religion be respected, and would there be a Consul or other British Representative Resident? I assured them of the first, and expressed my belief that the latter appointment would, for a time at least, be expedient.

10. I finally invited the Deputation to put anything they wished to be represented to Her Majesty's Government on paper, and the result is the paper herewith marked A, dated the 6th May, 1870, and signed by H. Finden and others.

11. This paper does not require any comment.

12. I subsequently invited the British merchants to meet me. Messrs. Brown, Chown, and Quin, the only British residents, attended.

13. I repeated the statements I had made to the native deputation, and a long and friendly discussion ensued, during which I failed to discover any sound or sufficient reason against the proposed transfer; indeed, Messrs. Brown and Chown left me with the impression that they were not averse to it.

14. Mr. Quin, however, expressed his strong dissent, but failed to adduce any reasonable grounds for Great Britain continuing to incur the responsibility and expense of governing the settlement.

15. To obviate the possibility of any misapprehension of their views and arguments, I invited these gentlemen to furnish me with their views and objections in writing, or, if disposed to acquiesce in the views of Her Majesty's Government, to state any conditions which they would desire to see attached to the transfer.

16. They have not, nor do they, I believe, intend to furnish me with any statement or expression of their opinion.

17. I would now for a moment advert to the petition, purporting to be signed by 400 persons, and transmitted in my despatch No. 20* dated the 30th of April, 1870.

* Page 27.

18. I placed the list of names attached to the petition in the hands of my interpreter, an old, highly intelligent, and faithful public servant, and transmit his report herewith marked B, dated the 10th May.

19. From this Report, which I have no doubt is substantially correct, your Lordship will learn that only ten persons of the total number of names attached to the Petition possess any property, and that the solvency of these is questionable.

20. Your Lordship, I trust, will not consider that I have outstepped my duty in the course I have adopted. When the matter was openly spoken of by the French Commissioners I thought my silence would place Her Majesty's Government in an undesirable position towards the inhabitants of Bathurst.

21. I have only in conclusion to state that I neither saw nor heard anything to induce me to believe that any serious opposition to the transfer would be offered and I feel more than ever convinced of the soundness of the policy of Great Britain divesting herself of the responsibility and charge of maintaining a settlement, the possession of which offers no equivalent or advantages, either present or prospective.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

(A.)

Bathurst, Gambia, May 6, 1870.

To His Excellency Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, Governor-in-chief, &c.

May it please your Excellency.

IN accordance with the leave given to us by your Excellency, we have put on paper our opinions with respect to the abandonment of the Settlement on the River Gambia as follows:—

1. We humbly beg to protest against any such abandonment.
2. We are of opinion, that if a Militia force were raised, and the Police force increased in number, that we should be in position to defend ourselves from any foreign aggressor.
3. Let there be a reduction in the Civil Staff.
4. We are willing to pay taxes adequate to the wants and requirements of these Settlements.
5. We humbly pray that Her Majesty's Government will only give us a trial, as we are quite aware that we are able to meet the required expenditure.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

H. FINDEN,

Owner of Property.

J. T. BARBER,

" "

J. D. RICHARDS,

" "

JOHN BOCOCK,

" "

ABRAHAM GODDARD,

" "

S. J. FORSTER,

" "

DANIEL G. PROPHET,

" "

PROVIDENCE JUFF,

" "

CHARLES PIGNARD,

" "

THOMAS KING,

" "

(In behalf of the native merchants and traders.)

Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

(B.)

Freetown, Sierra Leone, May 10, 1870.

Memorandum for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-chief in reference to the Petition of the People of Bathurst, Gambia, to the Secretary of State.

THE Petition originated from the advice of Mr. Brown, a respectable European merchant at Bathurst to Mr. Harry Finden, Mr. Thomas King, and other principal residents of Bathurst; the names on it are those of some of the principal native residents, persons emigrated from Sierra Leone to that place, and many illiterate foreigners from the adjacent countries near that place, great many of whom are French subjects employed as mechanics, seaman, and labourers, by European and native merchants, traders, and others there, some of whom are not even aware of their names being placed on the Petition, several of them I have personally seen and conversed with. There are also names of persons on the Petition who are now residing in Sierra Leone and never have been to the Gambia, such as Mr. Thomas F. Cuthbert, whose son, James S. Cuthbert went to the Gambia about a month ago, and I am told, thought it a matter of course to place his father's name, who was at the time in Sierra Leone—on it, while the father is not aware of it. I also was informed that the reasons of writing the Petition are—

1. Unwillingness to be transferred to the French Government.
2. That it would be a hindrance to their religious opinions of their worshipping God and their trading.
3. Having heard so much ill report of the French Government it will be a loss to those who have property.
4. That they will lose that just and ample protection, care, and liberty, which they have hitherto enjoyed under the British Government.

5. That hearing the rumour of this transference, and should remain quiet without showing their feelings against it, might appear as if they were wanting in gratitude and loyal sentiment on their part to the British Government, who have done so much good to them.

The Petition was worded and written by Mr. W. C. Walcott, who himself is under the impression that the transference would be materially detrimental to his profession as a lawyer in that place.

(Signed)

THOS. GEO. LAWSON,

Government Interpreter.

1. Harry Finden, liberated African, Ibo, native merchant, has property.
2. J. T. Barber, a disbanded soldier, native merchant, has property.
3. J. D. Richards, native of Gambia, Aku, descendants, trader, has property.
4. John Boccock, liberated African, Popoe, native merchant, has property.
5. Abraham Goddard, liberated African, Aku, native merchant, has property.
6. S. J. Forster, liberated African, Seaman from Sierra Leone to that place many years ago.

7. Daniel G. Prophet, Aku, clerk, has property.

8. Providence Juff Jalloff, mechanic, has property.

9. Charles Pignard, mechanic, has property.

10. Thomas King, Aku, disbanded soldier, has large property as Mr. Finden.

From information, it appears the debts these persons are under, overbalance all what they are worth, and should demand be made for payment, it would leave them nothing but poverty.

(Signed)

THOS. GEO. LAWSON,

Government Interpreter.

No. 27.

The Administrator of the Government to the Earl Granville, K.G.

No. 27.

(No. 2. Gambia.)

Government House, Gambia, May 13, 1870.

My Lord,

(Received May 30, 1870.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a despatch received* from the Governor-in-chief, in which his Excellency desires me to communicate direct to your Lordship, on the subject of a Petition from the inhabitants of the Gambia, addressed to your Lordship, relative to a rumoured transfer of these settlements to the French Government, which I transmitted through the usual channel on the 22nd ultimo.†

* Governor Kennedy's despatch No. 34, April 30, 1870, page 29.

† Page 27.

His Excellency in his despatch draws my attention to the Colonial regulations as to the course to be pursued in forwarding documents of the kind in question. Being unaware, beyond the mere rumour, of any contemplated change, I transmitted the Petition unaccompanied with the usual report, as I thought in the absence of any authentic information on the subject, it only contained the views of persons expressed on a general surmise without any knowledge of the actual value of the question at issue, and on those grounds I did not think I was in a position to advise on the merits of their Petition.

The arrival of a French gun-boat with Commissioners on board, and visit of his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, who took the opportunity of conferring with the inhabitants, has established the fact of negotiations being on foot, and justifies me in now commenting upon the Petition, as the public, after an explanation on the subject from Sir Arthur Kennedy, are enabled to form an opinion on the measure.

From what I have heard, and from the information brought to me since the departure of the Governor-in-chief, the feelings of the inhabitants bear out their Petition.

With regard to the Petition itself, in reply to the queries contained in Sir Arthur's Kennedy's despatch, I may state that a legal person was employed to draw it up; and although the names are written, but very few were able to write them themselves, nor, I daresay, able to understand its contents, but from the fact that it expressed a protest against the transfer was sufficient inducement for the natives to allow their names to be attached, and that the Petitioners represent the property and intelligence of the native element I do not think there can be a doubt.

From a return prepared for the Governor-in-chief at his Excellency's instigation, it appears that there are 509 Petitioners, 374 of whom are styled as British subjects, the remaining 135 being foreigners, but all are natives, amongst whom are 10 or 12 mulattoes. They consist of traders, shopkeepers, mechanics, and labourers.

Their property is represented by 230 of the Petitioners, and is returned at 11,904*l.*, and by dividing that amount amongst those Petitioners their social status can be estimated by the average it gives of 52*l.* per head.

Mr. Finden, who heads the Petition, can neither read nor write, but he exercises considerable influence amongst the native population, and his lead is invariably followed by that of his class.

The statements of the Petitioners relative to the population and revenue, I need hardly point out, are erroneous. The population of the whole of the settlements is about 8,000, and the revenue, instead of showing a surplus, will, I regret to say, probably produce a deficit.

In weighing the value of the Petitioners' opinion I think it ought to be estimated in accordance with their ability, to understand the real nature of the change, which, I fear, they are unable to realize, as they appear to comprehend but one idea, and that is their averseness to French institutions, their knowledge of which is derived from the adjoining Colonies of Goree and Senegal.

Although the Petitioners could not fail to appreciate the advantages of the transfer when so ably pointed out to them by the Governor-in-chief, yet they cannot be educated to any idea but the one they entertain, of opposition to the measure, which totally absorbs their minds.

The native character is naturally averse to change of any kind, and no amount of argument, only the fact of the transfer, will convince them that it is for their benefit, so that their opposition may be considered by some to be one of sentiment rather than that of one on the merits of the question; but at the same time I feel bound to inform your Lordship, I am of opinion, that whatever intelligence, respectability, property, or feeling there may be in the natives of these settlements, it is almost unanimously represented by the Petition.

It must be remembered, however, that the population of Bathurst is of a migratory character, and consequently, the opinions of only a few are entitled to any consideration; and the repugnance of the natives of the surrounding country is to be found in the propensity of the French for warlike expeditions.

In conclusion, I should inform your Lordship it appears the European interests are divided on the subject, but only I think until such time as fuller particulars are made known to them; but with regard to the native population I fear the representations I have made of the advisability of the measure has met with little response, and any efforts made to convince them to approve of the transfer can only, I feel sure, result in failure.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEXR. BRAVO, Administrator.

Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.

No. 28.

No. 28.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

(Extract.)

(No. 36. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

June 2, 1870.

(Received June 27, 1870.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch No. 43, 16 May, 1870, from the Administrator, Gambia, accompanied by a nominal return, showing the general status of the persons who attached their names to a petition forwarded with my despatch No. 20,* dated 30th April, 1870, on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France.

The Return has been made by the writer and originator of the Petition, and may therefore be accepted as the most favourable description of the Petitioners.

This gentleman is a native of the West Indies very recently settled at the Gambia.

• • • • •

I am of opinion that much depends upon the heartiness with which the Administrator himself enters into and advocates the transfer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 28.

Encl. in No. 28.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy:

(No. 43. Gambia.)

Sir,

Government House, May 16, 1870.

Page 29.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 34* of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of a Petition relative to the transfer of these settlements to the French Government, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your Excellency's directions, I communicated direct with the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and a copy of my despatch I enclose herewith.*

I also have the honour to transmit a return pointing out the religion, occupation, property, its value, nationality, and general remarks, of each individual petitioner respectively, prepared by Mr. Walcott by your Excellency's command.

† No. 2, 13th
May, 1870,
page 35.

I regret to find that the Petition handed to me, does not appear to coincide with the copies transmitted to your Excellency, for on referring to that document, I noticed that, although it is "the humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Settlements on the Gambia," yet it "showeth that your Petitioners are merchants, traders, mechanics, and other inhabitants," &c., and which caused me to style them what they represented themselves to be.

My letter to Earl Granville comprises I presume all the information called for by your despatch, and I need hardly add that native public opinion appears to become more and more confirmed in its opposition to the transfer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEXR. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Encl. in No. 28.

RETURN Showing the General Status of the Persons who signed the Petition,
dated April 1870.

Petitioners.	Religion.	Trade or Occupation.	Property in Possession.	Value.	English or Foreign Subjects.	General Remarks.
H. Fonden	Protestant	Trader	A lot and house at No. 9, Dobson Street, besides other lots.	£ 350	English	He keeps a shop, and is worth about 600/
John M. Haynes	do.	Clerk	Nil	...	do.	
John Pocock	do.	Trader	A lot and house in Grant Street.	300	do.	He is worth about 500/.
Davidson Joffe	do.	Shipwright	Lots and houses	150	do.	
W. M. ...	do.	Clerk	A lot and house	50	do.	
...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
...	do.	Mason	A lot and house	80	do.	
...	do.	Merchant	Lots and houses	2,500	do.	He is worth about 4,000/.
...	do.	Clerk	Lot and house	40	do.	
...	do.	Attorney-at-law	Nil	...	do.	
...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
...	do.	Mechanic	Lot and house	20	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
...	do.	Clerk	do.	40	do.	
...	do.	Blacksmith	do.	50	Foreign	
...	do.	Butcher	do.	40	English.	
...	do.	Tailor	Nil	...	do.	
...	do.	Clerk	House and land	50	do.	
...	do.	Mechanic	do.	10	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	10	Foreign	
...	do.	do.	do.	10	English.	
...	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	10	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
...	do.	do.	do.	40	do.	

Particulars.	Religion.	Trade or Occupation.	Property in Possession.	Value.	English or Foreign Subjects.	General Remarks.
J. F. Barber ...	Protestant	Trader	Lots and houses	£ 200	English...	He is worth about 2000 and keeps a
Gore F. Loom ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	60	do.	grog-shop.
Thomas S. Lyons ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
John F. Screwelly ...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
Thomas Williams ...	do.	Driver	House and land	100	do.	
George Gabriel Coffee ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	10	do.	
Thomas Joffee ...	do.	Sailor	do.	10	do.	
Cham Bender ...	Mahometan	Mechanic	do.	10	Foreign.	
John Cammer ...	Protestant	do.	do.	10	do.	
James Thomas ...	do.	do.	do.	8	English.	
Pierre Low ...	Roman Catholic	Mechanic	Doubtful	...	Doubtful.	
John Jie ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	Foreign.	
John Richards ...	Protestant	Mason	do.	...	English	
James George ...	do.	Carpenter	do.	...	do.	
David Jones ...	do.	Driver	do.	...	do.	
George Goswell ...	do.	Mason	House and land	40	do.	
G. Mantell ...	do.	Clerk	do.	25	do.	
Thomas R. Dick ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	20	do.	
Daniel Deale ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Henry A. Smith ...	Protestant	Labourer	do.	...	do.	
Jonathan B. Sebbis ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	10	do.	
George Waterman ...	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
George J. Butcher ...	do.	do.	do.	40	do.	
Francis Matthew Fye ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
George J. King ...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
John W. F. Gum ...	do.	Mechanic	House and lot	30	do.	
P. J. Joseph ...	Roman Catholic	Ship carpenter	do.	50	do.	
John W. F. Finden ...	Protestant	Clerk	Nil	...	do.	
Francis W. Finden ...	do.	Mechanic	House and lot	30	do.	
John A. Pierre ...	do.	Clerk	do.	60	do.	
Samuel F. Owens ...	do.	Trader	Doubtful	...	do.	
Francis W. John ...	do.	do.	House and lot	25	do.	
W. J. Thorpe ...	do.	Servant	do.	23	do.	
John Ray ...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
Armadum Cedi ...	Mahometan	do.	Nil	...	Foreign.	
Thomas Loof ...	Roman Catholic	Mechanic	Doubtful	...	do.	
Ansoumanic Gay ...	Mahometan	do.	House and land	20	do.	
John Trim ...	Protestant	Sailmaker	do.	20	do.	
Joseph Richards ...	do.	Merchant	do.	500	English	He is worth about 8000.
Dottin Pierre ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	100	do.	This man is dead.
Frank Dass ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Francis Gore Fye ...	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	...	do.	
Samuel See ...	Protestant	do.	do.	...	do.	
Robert Stuart ...	do.	Trader	do.	...	do.	
Tapally Gion ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	70	do.	
William Davis ...	Protestant	Trader	do.	50	do.	He is worth nothing if
Margu Bay ...	Mahometan	Mechanic	House and lot	20	Foreign.	his debts were paid.
M. R. Jobe ...	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Abraham Lord ...	Protestant	Mechanic	House and lot	30	English.	
Sae M. Jie ...	do.	do.	do.	10	do.	
Francis Seignac ...	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	5	French.	
C. J. P. Johnson ...	Protestant	Clerk	House and land	40	English.	
Sam. Pierre John ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	30	do.	
Pinzas Joque ...	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
Henry F. Cole ...	do.	Trader	do.	40	do.	
Ezekiel F. Butcher ...	do.	Butcher	Nil	...	do.	
Richard M. Jie ...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
S. F. Clarke ...	do.	Mason	House and land	25	do.	
Robert McClean ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	30	do.	
John Francis Tarray ...	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	20	do.	
John N. Jie ...	do.	do.	do.	10	do.	
Pierre Jie ...	do.	do.	do.	40	do.	
George Thomas Butcher ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
E. Clark ...	Protestant	Mechanic	Nil	...	English.	
David George ...	do.	Trader	do.	...	do.	
Joseph Song ...	Roman Catholic	Mason	House and land	10	do.	
Pierre Turry ...	ditto	do.	do.	10	French.	
Charles Wassier ...	Protestant	Trader	do.	300	English.	
W. W. Brown ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	40	do.	
John Carter ...	do.	Trader	do.	50	do.	
John Smith ...	do.	do.	do.	40	English.	
Mormodon More ...	Mahometan	Blacksmith	do.	20	Foreign.	
Fortonah Syrd ...	do.	do.	do.	5	do.	
Marmadey Cah ...	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
Farrey Roush ...	do.	Farmer	do.	30	French	
John F. Carter ...	Roman Catholic	Seaman	do.	20	do.	
Pompey Gay ...	Mahometan	Pilot	do.	60	Foreign	
Marcada Harna ...	do.	Farmer	do.	10	do.	
Mortarre ...	do.	do.	do.	5	do.	
W. L. Ngua ...	Protestant	Mechanic	do.	10	English.	
Iogo Jahw ...	Roman Catholic	Landress	Nil	...	French (Jolloff).	
Mary Ngun ...	do.	Maid	do.	...	do.	
T. W. Sawyer ...	Protestant	Mason	House and land	50	English.	
John C. Forster ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
G. Corley ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	30	do.	
S. Matul ...	do.	do.	do.	10	do.	
Batehy Njie ...	Mahometan	do.	do.	40	French (Jolloff).	
Joseph Sire ...	Protestant	do.	do.	15	do.	
Anno Canter ...	Mahometan	Farmer	do.	10	do.	
Carma Lee ...	do.	Doubtful	Doubtful	...	do.	
Thomas F. Cutbert ...	Protestant	do.	do.	...	do.	
James S. Cutbert ...	do.	Clerk	Nil	...	English.	Residing in Freetown.
William B. Adams ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	300	do.	Serra Leone.
Thomas F. Oliver ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	He is worth about 4000
John S. Bailey ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Cole ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Isaiah Qnah ...	do.	Mechanic	House and lot	25	Jolloff (English)	
John R. Chown ...	do.	Farmer	House and land	10	do.	
Edward Sankey ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Joseph Ndue ...	Protestant	do.	House and land	50	Foreign.	
Richard Gomez ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Richard Njie ...	do.	do.	House and land	30	do.	
Lendur Cotos ...	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	Foreign	
John Joff ...	do.	do.	House and land	30	English	
William J. Riley ...	Protestant	M. House	do.	50	do.	
John F. Gown ...	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
George F. Martin ...	do.	do.	House and land	50	do.	
H. J. Cunn ...	do.	Constable	do.	60	do.	
Harry Outer ...	do.	Messenger	do.	30	do.	
John G. Gay ...	do.	Servant	Nil	...	do.	
James Clarke ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Daniel G. Prophet ...	do.	Trader	House and land	...	do.	
James Martin ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	...	do.	
John Chan ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	Unknown.
Joseph Rustin ...	Protestant	Sailor	Nil	...	do.	
Thomas Fatt ...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
J. Campbell ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	...	do.	
W. H. Sawyer ...	do.	Servant	Nil	...	do.	
S. T. Gashiba ...	do.	Clerk	do.	...	do.	
Mohammed Sader ...	do.	do.	do.	...	Foreign	
James Hilley ...	Protestant	do.	House and land	30	English	

Petitioners.	Religion	Trade or Occupation.	Property in Possession.	Value.	English or Foreign Subjects.	General Remarks.
John Thomas	Protestant	Labourer	House and land	£ 30	English.	
Isaac M. Hubbard	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
John C. ...	do.	Farmer	do.	30	do.	
Amos Gough	Mahometan					Unknown.
Mustafa	do.		Nil		Foreign	
F. ...	do.		do.		do.	
H. S. ...	Roman Catholic		do.		do.	
S. S. ...	do.	Farmer	do.		do.	
J. S. ...	do.	do.	House and land	50	French (Jolloff).	
J. S. ...	Mahometan		do.	25	do.	
W. J. ...	Protestant		Nil		English.	
J. S. ...	do.	Trader	House and land	80	do.	
J. S. ...	do.	Blacksmith	do.	50	do.	
James ...	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	50	English.	
J. S. ...	do.	Trader	do.	100	do.	
M. J. ...	Mahometan					Unknown.
S. S. ...	do.	Mechanic	House and land	60	Foreign.	
T. S. ...	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	40	English (Jolloff).	
L. S. ...	do.	do.	Doubtful		English.	
J. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
Thomas ...	Protestant		Nil		do.	
G. S. ...	do.	Tailor	House and land	50	do.	
Joseph D. Andrews	do.	do.	One lot	5	do.	
Y. S. ...	Mahometan		House and land	80	do.	
B. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		Foreign.	
John K. ...	Mahometan	Carpenter	House and land	40	do.	
W. S. B. Koker	Protestant	Clerk	Nil		English.	
C. S. ...	do.		House and land	10	do.	
P. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		Foreign.	
L. S. ...	do.		do.		English (Jolloff).	
J. S. ...	do.		do.		Foreign.	
M. S. ...	do.	Farmer	do.		do.	
Th. S. ...	Protestant	do.	House and land	80	English.	
Charles ...	do.	do.	do.	300	do.	
John ...	do.	Sailor	do.	10	do.	
George ...	do.	Servant	Nil		do.	
E. R. J. ...	do.	Clerk	House and land	50	do.	
Robert ...	do.	Servant	do.	30	do.	
S. S. ...	do.		Nil		do.	
J. P. ...						Unknown.
John L. ...	Roman Catholic		House and land	40	English.	
William M. ...	Protestant	Trader	do.	30	do.	
A. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		do.	
M. S. ...	Protestant	Laundress	do.		do.	
J. S. ...	do.	Trader	House and land	70	do.	
J. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		Doubtful.	
S. S. ...	do.	Servant	do.		English (Jolloff).	
J. S. ...	do.	Mechanic	do.		French (Jolloff).	
G. S. ...	Protestant	do.	do.		English.	
J. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
P. S. ...	do.	Pedlar	House and land	40	do.	
D. S. ...	do.		Nil		do.	
N. S. ...	Protestant	Mechanic	Nil		English.	
M. S. ...	Mahometan		House and land	10	Foreign.	
S. S. ...	do.	Mechanic	do.	30	English.	
Thomas W. McClean	Protestant	Mason	do.	30	do.	
A. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		do.	
James ...	Protestant	Mason	House and land	30	do.	
A. S. ...	do.	Pedlar	do.	30	do.	
S. S. ...	Roman Catholic		Nil		do.	
T. D. Richards	Protestant	Servant	do.		do.	
Edward ...	do.	Mason	House and land	30	do.	
S. S. ...	do.		Nil		do.	
D. S. ...	do.		do.		do.	
M. S. ...	Mahometan	Mechanic	do.		do.	
D. S. ...	Roman Catholic		do.		do.	
A. S. ...	do.		do.		do.	
W. S. ...	Mahometan	Farmer	do.		Foreign.	
A. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
B. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
K. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
M. S. ...	do.	do.	do.		English.	
P. I. Higgins	Protestant		House and land	500	do.	
H. S. ...	do.	Messenger	do.	6	do.	
J. C. Goddard	do.	Clerk	do.	80	do.	
G. E. Bess	do.		Nil		do.	
J. C. G. Warner	do.		do.		do.	
Antony Gough						Unknown.
Providence ...						do.
Thomas G. Goddard	Protestant	Trader	House and land	70	English.	
James P. Brown	do.	Mason	do.	30	do.	
Francis G. A. Buckles	do.	Servant	Nil		do.	
John Foster	do.	do.	do.		do.	
James Gough	Roman Catholic	Mechanic	House and land	40	do.	
R. S. ...	Mahometan	Farmer	Nil		Foreign.	
Amos ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
Samuel Thomas	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	100	English.	
J. P. ...	do.	do.	do.		do.	
M. P. P. De Lacombe	Roman Catholic	Trader	do.		do.	Samuel Thomas's wife.
James P. De Lacombe	Protestant	do.	do.	70	do.	
N. S. ...	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
N. S. ...	do.	Pedlar	do.	70	do.	
J. S. ...	do.		Nil		do.	
James ...	do.	Mechanic	do.		do.	
Providence ...	do.	Trader	do.		do.	
J. S. ...	do.	Servant	do.		do.	
James ...	Roman Catholic		do.		do.	
William ...	Protestant	Trader	do.		Foreign.	
James ...	do.	Mason	House and land	30	English.	
James ...	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
James ...	do.	Mason	do.	30	do.	
James ...	do.	Trader	do.	30	do.	
James ...	do.	do.	do.	30	do.	
James ...	do.		Nil		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
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James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.		do.	
James ...	do.		do.	</		

Petitioners.	Religion.	Trade or Occupation.	Property in Possession.	Value	English or Foreign Subjects.	General Remarks.
William Finden	Protestant	Servant	House and land	£ 30	English.	
William Smith	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Jobe J. Beigh	do.	Shopkeeper	do.	...	do.	
Bonaparte Beigh	do.	Mason	House and land	60	do.	
Pierre Cessey	do.	do.	do.	40	do.	
Watley Brago	Pagan	Labourer	Nil	...	Foreign.	
Njorharre Budjar	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Poppu Juff	do.	do.	do.	...	English.	
Becam Fejie	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Ndella Jouff	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Walley Jouff	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Alvan Jouff	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Ngoro Susang	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Ngoro Boss	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Adjuma Selley	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Hassuy Wadd	do.	do.	do.	...	Foreign.	
Sundey Nje	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Lattine Bobt	do.	do.	do.	...	English.	
Mentum Dorey	Protestant	Cook	One lot	5	Foreign.	
Lattine Nduu	Pagan	Labourer	Nil	...	do.	
Collin Fejie	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Njohare Fejie	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Beram Parley	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Amad Fejie	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
William Konrick	Protestant	do.	do.	...	English.	
Henry P. Hostet	do.	do.	House and land	30	do.	
G. E. Seignac	Roman Catholic	...	Nil	...	do.	
J. H. Moore	Protestant	Mason	House and land	20	do.	
C. W. R. Leigh	do.	Mechanic	Nil	...	do.	
Robert Abraham	do.	Mason	House and land	30	do.	
John Ngoun	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
Nicholas Juff	do.	Mechanic	do.	20	do.	
Beram Nje	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
Charles Bana	do.	Mason	Nil	...	do.	
James John C. Abagar	do.	Painter	House and land	30	do.	
William G. Leigh	do.	Tailor	do.	70	do.	
George P. Clarke	Protestant	Mason	House and land	50	English.	
P. C. Lyons	do.	Clark	do.	50	do.	
William H. Cox	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
George J. Joiner	do.	Mechanic	House and land	30	do.	
James C. Johnson	do.	Clerk	do.	20	do.	
Samuel n'jie	Mahometan	Mechanic	do.	20	Foreign.	
Daniel B. Davis	Protestant	do.	Nil	...	English.	
Monroe Dixon	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
James Thomas	do.	do.	Doubtful	...	do.	
Domingos Hughes	do.	Mason	House and land	20	do.	
John Bull	do.	Mechanic	Nil	...	do.	
Frank Ruller	do.	Servant	House and land	20	do.	
James Finden	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Anthony Ingram	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Richard Wasser	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
Daniel Bocoek	do.	Servant	do.	...	do.	
Samba Francisco	do.	do.	do.	...	Foreign.	
James Steele	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Frank Goddard	do.	do.	do.	...	English.	
Henry d'Arcy	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Daniel Robertson	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
George Peel	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
William Freeman	do.	do.	do.	...	Doubtful.	
William More	do.	Servant	Nil	...	English.	
George King	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
James Oliver	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Benjamin Campbell	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
James Savage	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Charles Wass	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
William Pitt	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John De Lacombe	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Thomas Mowbray	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
George Finden	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Alexander Prophet	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Alexander Elliott	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
William Lloyd	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
James Crow	...	Servant	do.	...	Foreign.	
James Luthan	Protestant	Farmer	House and land	3	English.	
Chs. Moonag	do.	do.	do.	20	do.	
A. Jno. Brown	do.	Labourer	Nil	...	do.	
Henry Spencer	do.	Farmer	Doubtful	...	do.	
Jacob Thomas	...	Servant	Nil	...	do.	
Nelson d'Arcy	...	do.	do.	...	do.	
Samuel Duke	Protestant	Farmer	House and land	3	do.	
Emmanuel Angelo	...	Servant	Nil	...	do.	
Hairvula Juff	Mahometan	...	do.	...	Foreign	
Demba n'Yang	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
Anta n'jie	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
n'Gellam Surla	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
Belham n'Pwoc	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
Richard Jouff	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	10	English.	
Sarlifoe Yang	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Charles Marery	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Maribdi Maney	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Mya Mya Maney	Mahometan	...	do.	...	Foreign	
Cecil Juff	do.	...	do.	...	do.	
Jas. P. L. Dixon	Protestant	Printer	do.	...	English	
W. R. Small	do.	Printer	House and land	50	do.	
Estuan Gomez Rubero	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	Foreign	
Thomas Nathan Jacobs	Protestant	Cook	do.	...	English	
W. Collier	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John J. Taylor	do.	Mechanic	One lot	20	do.	
James J. Thomas	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John R. Thomas	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
James A. Taylor	do.	do.	House and land	30	do.	
Albert Eye	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	Foreign	
Robson Elliott	Protestant	do.	do.	...	do.	
George Williams	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
William Fisher	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
George Jno. Thomas	do.	Tutor	House and land	5	do.	
Thomas Maunday	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
George J. Grant	do.	do.	House and land	30	do.	
Thomas Bowling	do.	Servant	House and land	10	do.	
John Richard Ashwood	do.	Painter	House and land	50	do.	
John Davies	do.	Mechanic	Nil	...	do.	
Joseph Jasper	do.	Sailor	House and land	40	do.	
John G. Freeman	do.	Mason	Nil	...	do.	
John D. Williams	do.	Labourer	do.	...	do.	
John Hall	do.	do.	House and land	5	do.	
C. J. Scott	do.	Shopkeeper	do.	10	do.	
C. E. B. Spalding	do.	do.	do.	50	do.	
Louis Scott	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
James Maunday	do.	do.	House and land	20	do.	
Hannah Williams	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Harriet Maunday	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Kliss Lam	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	

Petitioners.	Religion.	Trade or Occupation.	Property in Possession.	Value.	English or Foreign Subjects.	General Remarks.
Matthew Williams	Protestant	Tide-waiter	House and land	2	English.	
James C. Birch	do.	Mechanic	do	20	do	
Isaac P. N. Davies	do.	Fisherman	do	20	do	
John Robinson	do.	do	Nil	...	do.	
John Thomas Driver	do.	Fisherman	House and land	30	do.	
Russ. Drake	do.	Hawker	Nil	...	do.	
John Moore	do.	Labourer	House and land	10	Foreign.	
James Thomas	Pagan	Shopkeeper	Nil	...	do.	
Mary W. Jones	Protestant	Pecllar	House and land	5	English.	
John Spaulding	do.	Hawker	Nil	...	do.	
Samuel H. Spaulding	do.	Mechanic	House and land	10	do	
Mary H. Spaulding	do.	Laundress	do.	5	do	
Thomas Spaulding	do.	Pecllar	Nil	...	do	
James Olin	do.	Farmer	do.	...	do	
Edward Olin	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
George Olin	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Susan King	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Carth. Williams	do.	Labourer	do.	...	do.	
John Rogers	do.	Pecllar	do.	...	do.	
Henry H. Cummings	do.	Sailor	One lot	10	do.	
J. C. J. Thomas	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
James Grant	do.	Trader	House and land	30	do.	
Thomas Grant	do.	Mason	do.	100	do.	
George Calhoun	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	80	English.	
James Wright	do.	Painter	Nil	...	do.	
Victor J. J. J.	Roman Catholic	Mechanic	House and land	60	English (Jolloff).	
Walter J. J.	do.	do.	Nil	...	Foreign.	
Joseph Surr	Protestant	do.	do.	...	do.	
Nancy Fisher	do.	Pecllar	House and land	80	English.	
John Jones	do.	Farmer	Nil	...	do.	
George W. Wilson	do.	Tailor	House and land	150	do.	
Isaac B. Fisher	do.	Mechanic	do.	60	do.	
John Munroe Edmund	do.	Farmer	do.	50	do.	
Mary Mason	do.	Pecllar	Nil	...	do.	
Peter H. Tebbis	do.	Mechanic	House and land	50	do.	
James Williams	do.	do.	Doubtful	...	do.	
John Tebbis	do.	Blacksmith	Nil	...	do.	
Thomas Buckner	do.	Constable	do.	...	do.	
Robert Andrews, Junr.	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
David W. F. Spaulding	do.	Mechanic	do.	...	do.	
Morgan Spaulding	do.	do.	House and land	20	do.	
John T. Spaulding	do.	do.	do.	70	do.	
Robert C. Wetherall	do.	Trader	do.	30	do.	
John Wetherall	do.	Mason	do.	20	do.	
W. J. Jackson	do.	Mechanic	do.	40	do.	
Charles Day	do.	do.	do.	8	do.	
John Warner	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
Charles G. Watson	do.	Servant	do.	...	do.	
Amos J. J.	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	...	French (Jolloff).	
James Doring	Protestant	Mechanic	do.	...	English.	
James Doring	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
Marion Doring	do.	Laundress	do.	...	do.	
G. J. Doring	do.	do.	House and land	15	do.	
W. J. Doring	do.	Seaman	do.	10	do.	
Gordon Doring	do.	do.	do.	6	do.	
James N. Gover	do.	Trader	do.	100	do.	
Joseph P. Wilson	do.	Clerk	do.	30	do.	
Joseph J. Spaulding	do.	Tailor	Nil	...	do.	
August W. W.	Mahometan	Farmer	do.	...	Foreign.	
Amos Thompson	Protestant	Sailor	do.	...	English.	
Joseph R. Adams	Roman Catholic	Mechanic	do.	...	do.	
Salaman Nyang	Mahometan	Mechanic	Nil	...	Foreign.	
Abson Gies	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
B. J. Johnson	Protestant	Clerk	House and land	120	English.	
Alphonse Lecomte	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
O'Connor Gies	Roman Catholic	Clerk	do.	...	Foreign.	
N. Gure Mc Nye	Mahometan	Blacksmith	do.	...	do.	
Samuel Salahi	do.	Trader	House and land	45	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	House and land	10	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	do.	House and land	30	English.	
John Sane	do.	Mechanic	do.	45	Foreign.	
John Sane	do.	Labourer	Nil	...	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	40	English.	
John Sane	do.	Trader	do.	200	do.	He is worth about 300
John Sane	Mahometan	Farmer	do.	10	Foreign.	
John Sane	Protestant	Trader	do.	50	English.	
John Sane	do.	Pilot	do.	30	do. (Jolloff)	
John Sane	Roman Catholic	Sailor	Doubtful	...	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	Teacher	House and land	25	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	Nil	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	Sailor	House and land	40	do.	
John Sane	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	French (Jolloff)	
John Sane	Protestant	do.	do.	...	English.	
John Sane	Roman Catholic	do.	do.	15	do. (Jolloff)	
John Sane	do.	Servant	House and land	35	do.	
John Sane	do.	Trader	do.	80	do.	
John Sane	Roman Catholic	Sailor	Nil	...	Foreign.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	Servant	do.	...	English.	
John Sane	Mahometan	do.	do.	...	Foreign.	
John Sane	Protestant	Trader	do.	...	English.	
John Sane	do.	Clerk	House and land	50	do.	
John Sane	Mahometan	do.	Doubtful	...	Foreign.	
John Sane	Protestant	Mechanic	House and land	25	English.	
John Sane	do.	do.	Doubtful	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	House and land	10	do.	He is worth nothing if his debts were paid
John Sane	Roman Catholic	do.	Doubtful	...	Foreign.	
John Sane	do.	Mechanic	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	Mahometan	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	Farmer	House and land	5	do.	
John Sane	Roman Catholic	do.	Nil	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	House and land	5	do.	
John Sane	Protestant	Mahometan	do.	20	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	
John Sane	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	

TOTALS

Number of Petitioners	...
Number of Petitioners who are English subjects	...
Number of Petitioners who have not got property in the Settlements	...
Number of Petitioners who are not English subjects	...

No. 29.

No. 29.

*Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.*Government House, Sierra Leone,
June 2, 1870.

(No. 37. Gambia.)

(Received June 27, 1870.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 136, July 2, 1870, page 51.)

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch Gambia No. 115, dated 31st March, 1870, I have the honour to transmit a despatch from the Administrator of that Settlement, No. 45, 19th May, 1870.

From such hasty examination as I was able to make on my late visit to the Gambia, I am still of opinion that the receipts for 1870 will not realize the Estimates. I shall, however, watch the progress of the Settlement carefully.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor-in-chief.

Encl. in No. 29.

Enclosure in No. 29.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 45.)

Government House, Gambia, May 19, 1870.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 39 of the 2nd instant transmitting, for my information and guidance, a copy of one from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the revenue and expenditure of the Settlement of the Gambia.

I may be permitted to remark that, although there was a deficit for the year 1869 of 4,178*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* (not 4,718*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*), the balance of 5,244*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* in the Colonial Chest at the commencement of that year appears to have been lost sight of,—which not only provided for the excess of expenditure over receipts, but also left a balance of 1,065*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the Colony on the 1st of this year.

The following will, I think, illustrate plainly the financial position of the Colony:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Colonial Chest on 1st January, 1869	5,244	3	1
Revenue of 1869	17,653	1	7
Balance in hands of Crown Agents, 31st December, 1869	1,665	13	9
Total assets	24,562	18	5
Expenditure for 1869, including a balance of 364 <i>l.</i> 19 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> due to Crown Agents on 1st January, 1869	21,831	8	11
Leaving to the credit of the Colony on 1st January, 1870	2,731	9	6

I think it is shown above that, much as last year's deficiency is to be regretted, it is not necessary to take it into this year's account, as it has already been provided for; and I am pleased to be able to state that the return of the first quarter's revenue of the present year compares not unfavourably with preceding ones, as will be seen underneath:—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue for First Quarter of 1867	6,474	1	1
" " 1868	6,162	5	2
" " 1869	5,067	8	11
" " 1870	5,696	0	9

So that it seems the anticipation expressed of the ground-nut crop proving in quality what is wanted in quantity is happily realized.

Under these circumstances the saving, as suggested by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, of 2,000*l.*, under the head of Public Works, together with the balances in the Colonial Chest and with the Crown Agents, constituting a sum of 4,731*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, instead of being set off against the deficiency in the revenue of 1869, may, I think, very properly be applied towards raising the proposed armed Police force.

The year 1869 must be considered a very exceptional one; but I see no grounds to anticipate the like result to the present one: and although a just

No. 115, March 31,
1870, page

£	s.	d.
5,244	3	1
4,178	7	4
Deduct deficiency..		
1,065	15	9
Leaves		

apprehension was naturally felt from the deficiency in last year's revenue, I am in hopes that the revenue estimated for 1870, viz., 18,640/., will not disappoint the expectations that may fairly be entertained of its reaching that amount, basing the presumption on the satisfactory result of the first quarter's receipts.

Therefore, though our finances may require careful nursing, I do not think there will be a necessity, as yet, to disturb existing arrangements, and nothing to prevent the progress of draining the swamp in the vicinity of Bathurst.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEXR. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

No. 30.

No. 30.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
June 2, 1870.

(Received June 27, 1870.)

(No. 39. Gambia.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 136, July 2, 1870, page 51.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches from the Administrator at the Gambia, together with my reply thereto.

I deferred replying to the first of these despatches, No. 21, 24th March, 1870, till I had visited Bathurst, and made enquiries on the spot.

The small existing Police force is very inefficient, and must be thoroughly reorganized under a competent head to render it available for any useful purpose.

I do not think there is native material at the Gambia from which eligible or useful men can be recruited; a certain number may be obtained at Sierra Leone.

I presume the proposal to employ troops in the manner suggested by the Administrator could not be entertained, and I certainly would not recommend it, either on the score of economy or efficiency.

The Council, as your Lordship will observe, deem a Police force practically useless "to defend outlying Settlements." In this opinion I entirely concur, and the knowledge of this fact was among the reasons which have induced me to recommend the transfer of this Settlement to a military Power, who are able and willing to defend it. A chronic state of war among surrounding tribes, arising from religious fanaticism, has existed for years, and will continue till the Mahometan overcomes and extirpates the Pagan element in the population.

A Militia force, under successive military Governors and Administrators, has been tried, and failed signally. The population is essentially migratory. The few residents would not voluntarily enrol, and non-residents entrusted with arms would undoubtedly abscond, and sell them.

A single gun-boat can protect Bathurst, if it be worth protecting; and if the Settlement be retained under British rule, I think the inhabitants should be distinctly informed that Her Majesty's Government cannot be responsible for defensive aid beyond those limits.

The proposed increase of tax on the export of ground-nuts would fall almost exclusively on the French traders, who are the principal, if not only, exporters.

I shall await instructions from your Lordship, and some information on the subject of the proposed transfer, before I sanction or suggest any considerable outlay.

I have no hesitation in restating my opinion that the Gambia Settlement never will or can be self-supporting, and that neither politically or commercially is it worth retaining.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

24th March, 1870.
20th May, 1870.
2nd June, 1870.

Enclosure 1 in No. 30.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 21.)

Sir,

Government House, Gambia, March 24, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 13 of the 3rd ultimo, directing my attention to the necessity of organizing an efficient Police force with a permanent head, and trained to the use of arms.

Having submitted the matter to my Council, I have the honour to forward herewith the minutes of the meeting at which the subject was discussed, which will inform your Excellency of the opinion they entertain regarding the formation of a force for the purpose of supplying the place of the troops which may be withdrawn from the Colony.

It will be seen that, to organize an efficient Police force at all, a great expense will have to be incurred, which the present means of the Colony are unable to provide for.

The estimate I submitted to the Council is the least that can be devised, and even that can hardly be said to ensure efficiency; besides, it does not include the cost of clothes, arms, and accoutrements.

I coincide in the view expressed by my Council that, if practicable, it would be better to obtain troops, as they always produce an impression on the natives, which perhaps a more efficient body of men under the garb of mere constables would be unable to effect. Besides, if the troops could be worked as suggested, by executive officers leaving the Civil Departments, which are the expensive part of a detachment, to be carried out by corresponding Departments of the Colonial Government, I think such a body of men would be the most desirable force for these Settlements.

Should such a force be found impracticable then I would suggest that a Police force, in accordance with the estimate I have forwarded, be organized, and that its uniform should be the same as that of Sierra Leone, which I designed myself, and which has proved, after a trial of now some four years to be most effective looking and serviceable, as well as being the least expensive of any that has hitherto, I believe, been supplied to any force on this coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEXR. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Sub-Enclosure.

Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Legislative Council held at Bathurst on the 23rd of March, 1870.

AT a meeting of the Legislative Council held at Bathurst, the 23rd day of March, 1870.

Present:

His Excellency the Administrator.

The Honourable the Acting Collector and Treasurer.

The Honourable the Chief Magistrate.

The Honourable Thomas Brown.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

His Excellency then referred the Council to despatch No. 13, dated 3rd February, 1870, brought forward at the last Council, relative to reorganizing the Police force, and proposed the following scale for the future Police force of the Gambia:—

				£	s.	d.
1	General Superintendent	..	..	..	100	0 0
	Forage for 1 horse, at 2s. 3d.	..	..	..	41	13 0
1	Inspector at, per annum,	..	..	..	50	0 0
2	Sergeants, at 40l. per annum	..	..	..	80	0 0
6	Corporals, at 36l. 10s per annum	..	..	..	219	0 0
23	1st Class Constables, at 1s. 9d. per diem.	..	..	..	734	11 3
23	2nd Class Constables, at 1s. 6d. per diem	..	..	..	629	12 6
24	3rd Class Constables, at 1s. 3d. per diem	..	..	..	547	10 0
80					2,601	15 0

The force to be armed with breech-loading carbines, with sword-bayonets, &c. The General Superintendent and Inspector to be armed with swords, steel hilt and scabbard, and Colt's 6-barrel revolvers.

This was agreed to, but at the same time the Council were of opinion that even that increase, amounting to 100 per cent. on the present strength of the Police force, will be wholly insufficient for the protection of the Colony on the withdrawal of the troops. But the present revenue of the Colony cannot even support this force; and that it would be better for the interest of the Colony that, instead of increasing the present Police force, and making it an armed body, the Colony should contribute towards the support or maintain a small military force without the Staff Departments attached to a military detachment, which could be undertaken by the Colonial officers.

Certified to be an extract from the Minutes of Council.

(Signed) HENRY FOWLER.
Clerk of Council.

Enclosure 2 in No. 30.

Encl. 2 in No. 30.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

No. 47.)

Sir,

Government House, Gambia, May 20, 1870.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I have the honour to inform you. I brought the subject of the contemplated armed Police force, and the means of maintaining the same, before the Legislative Council on, the 17th instant; and, after considerable discussion, the Council seemed disposed to endorse their former opinion on the matter as communicated to you in my despatch No. 21 of the 24th of March last.

In deference to the views expressed by your Excellency, the Council coincide in your opinion of there being only two class of Constables instead of three; and although they are of accord with you as to the insufficiency of the force as proposed, yet they entertain the idea that any Police force would be practically useless for the defence of any of our outlying Settlements, therefore they have no objection to increasing the force for the defence of Bathurst itself; but any increase beyond that purpose they think inexpedient, as it would not be effective, and would only be incurring a needless expense.

The Council also seemed disposed to rely more on the organization of a Militia force for protection in case of disturbance; but the only difficulties, if any, that are likely to occur, would be in Combo or Barra; and the opinion generally expressed was, that if such did take place, it would be better to confine our defence entirely to the Island of St. Mary, which would be practicable with a Militia and the proposed Police force.

The present Police Establishment entails an annual expenditure of some 1,800*l.*, the proposed one amounts to 2,600*l.*, making a difference of 800*l.*

The cost of clothing last year amounted to 190*l.*, averaging about 4*l.* per head, so that the extra thirty Constables would entail a further expenditure of 120*l.*, making altogether an annual increase of 920*l.*

To this must be added the cost of arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, viz.:—

			£	s.	d.
Say, 100 stand of Snider carbines, at 3 <i>l.</i> each	..	..	300	0	0
Ditto accoutrements, at 30 <i>s.</i> each	..	..	150	0	0
Ditto ammunition	..	..	50	0	0
			500	0	0

But this expenditure, of course, would not be annual, with the exception of the ammunition, and is only a first charge.

With regard to the means of maintaining the extra Police force, the Council are of opinion that inasmuch as the revenue for the first quarter of this year approximates that of previous years, and as some of the Public Works provided for in the Estimates, are ordered not to be carried out, sufficient means will be found to exist to meet the extra expenditure not provided for in the Estimates; but should such not prove the case, it was generally agreed and acquiesced in by the honourable unofficial member of my Council, that the export duty on ground-nuts might very

readily be increased without involving any particular hardship, or its imposition being perceptibly felt.

I enclose copy of the Minutes of Council, and await your further instructions the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEX. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Sub-Enclosure.

Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Legislative Council held at Bathurst on the 17th of May, 1870.

HIS Excellency the Administrator brought before the Council the subject of revenue and expenditure in relation to the organization of an armed Police force on the withdrawal of the troops.

The Council, after discussing the subject, endorsed their former Minute of the 23rd March last; yet, inasmuch as the troops are about to be withdrawn, and seeing that there is no other provision to be made, and, in deference to the instructions of the Governor-in-chief, unanimously agree that such Police force, as proposed, be organized with as little delay as possible.

And that, as it appears the difference of expenditure between the present Police force and the one contemplated is a matter under 2000*l.*, and as a saving of some 5,000*l.* can be effected in the expenditure of Public Works, the revenue it is considered, will be sufficient to meet the extra expense of the proposed armed Police force.

But should the revenue fail to be sufficient, a reduction, it is thought, might be effected in the Establishments, or an increase of the export tax on ground-nut might be imposed.

(Signed)

HENRY FOWLER,
Clerk of Council.

Encl. 3 in No. 30.

Enclosure 3 in No. 30.

Sir A. Kennedy to Administrator of Government, Gambia.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
June 2, 1870.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, named in the margin, on the subject of the Police force at Bathurst. I have deferred replying to these despatches till I had more information on the subject.

The withdrawal of the troops, however, renders it necessary that you should at once provide for the safety of property and the maintenance of order within the Settlement by a sufficient Police force, and also to be prepared to show how the increased expenditure is to be met.

In view of the pending negotiations for the transfer of the Settlement, I am of opinion that you should confine the increase of your force and your expenditure within the limits of the actual necessities of the case till I can communicate with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

His Excellency the Administrator, Gambia,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 21, March 24,
1870.
No. 47, May 20,
1870.

No. 31.

No. 31.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Arthur Olway, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Downing Street, June 6, 1870.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letters on the subject of the proposed exchange of territory with the French on the West Coast of Africa; and I am to request that you will state to the Earl of Clarendon that the delay which has occurred in answering those letters has

risen from the receipt, by two successive mails, of despatches from the Governor-
 relief relative to the probable feelings of the natives and the British residents
 at the Gambia with respect to the proposed cession of that territory to the French,
 copies of which are now annexed.

Lord Granville desires me to state that the conditions on which the French
 Government are prepared to agree to the proposals made by Her Majesty's Govern-
 ment, as stated in the *note verbale* delivered to Lord Lyons by Count Daru, appear
 to his Lordship to be quite satisfactory; he presumes that, in case any slight
 expenditure, by way of compensation or otherwise, should be required on the
 occasion of a transfer in behalf of any persons resident at the Gambia (which
 however, there is no present reason to expect), the French Government would be
 prepared to meet it.

With respect to the feelings of the natives and the British residents at the
 Gambia on the subject of the transfer, I am to request that you will call Lord
 Clarendon's special attention to pages 7, 8, and 9 of Sir A. Kennedy's confidential
 despatch of 29th March, and to his despatch No. 32 of 10th May.

The experience of the events on the Gold Coast shows the good policy of not
 arousing any adverse feelings among the natives and others, and Lord Granville
 would suggest that the French Government should be requested to use their
 influence with the French merchants at the Gambia to avoid any counter movement,
 and to enable Her Majesty's Government to assure the inhabitants of the Settlement
 that their religion, property, and existing rights would be carefully respected.

Lord Clarendon may, perhaps, think it advisable that Lord Lyons should show
 confidentially to the French Government the correspondence forwarded in this
 letter, in order that he may concert such measures with them as the case may
 demand.

The French Government are probably aware that the President of the United
 States has adjudged that Bulama and the territory opposite to it belongs to Portugal,
 and that the British Government, therefore, have no power to transfer it to France,
 which they had expressed themselves willing to do if the decision should have been
 favourable.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.,
 &c. &c. &c.

No. 32.

No. 32.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Earl Granville, K.G.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
 June 10, 1870.

(Received June 28, 1870.)

(No. 42. Gambia.)

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 135, July 2, 1870, page 51.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch, No. 51, 1st June, from
 the Administrator of the Gambia forwarding a letter from the King of Combo
 praying that, in the event of the Settlement of the Gambia being transferred to
 France, certain territory ceded by him to Great Britain may be restored to him.

The King of Combo would be quite unable to defend himself from the fanatical
 people adjoining his territory if unsupported by an European Power; and I think
 his present application cannot be prudently complied with.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
 Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 32.

Encl. 1 in No. 32.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 51.)

Sir,

Government House, Gambia, June 1, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter I have received from the King of
 Combo relating to the proposed transfer of these Settlements to the French
 Government.

Combo is one of the Settlements under this Government, and was ceded by Conventions dated 13th July, 1840, 26th December, 1850, and 24th May, 1853, all of which have been confirmed between the Kings of Combo and Governors Huntley, McDonnell, and O'Connor.

The King of Combo's territory joins that ceded to Great Britain, and in the event of these Settlements being handed over to any other nation, His Majesty begs that the portion ceded may be restored to him.

An annual custom of 25*l.* is paid for the ceded territory.

The district is thoroughly settled, and many liberated Africans were located there, and it has been used as a convalescent station by the Military and Colonial authorities.

The accession of the territory is very necessary from political and strategical considerations in connection with Bathurst.

The King of Combo does not exercise any very considerable influence, being surrounded by Marabouts who are more powerful than himself.

My despatch No. 43 of the 16th May fully discloses the feelings of the natives on the subject of the transfer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

Sub-Enclosure.

The King of Combo to the Governor of Gambia.

(Translation.)

I, KING TUMANEE, of Combo, request the Governor of the Gambia to tender my best compliments to Her Majesty the Queen of England.

I, King Tumanee, of Combo, have heard that the Queen of England is about to bring stranger into Bathurst. But I, King Tumanee, of Combo, know of nothing else to exist between myself and the British people than serving God and living in peace and friendship.

If any disturbance or dispute had arisen on any part of my Kingdom of Combo, it was brought there by the Marabouts.

I, King Tumanee, of Combo, and the Queen of England are both great and powerful, and we both have always wished peace and have kept up the friendly relation that exists between us ever since we lived together.

I, King Tumanee, of Combo, thank the Queen of England for all past favours towards me; and as your Majesty is aware that it was war that compelled me to give up part of my territory to your people, I now beg that, should you desire to transfer your Settlements to another person, I would rather that you return my territory back to me as an act of friendship.

I, King Tumanee, of Combo, wish the Queen of England to remember that our friendship commenced long before the war broke out in my territory; as, when your subjects required a piece of land for building or farming purposes, I have never yet refused, but always grant them a piece: and my reason for doing so is because I love the British people and I like their friendship, and they have the possession of such lands up to the present time. Even Bathurst, which your Majesty is about to give away to strangers, was given to you by my grandfather, and that is a sufficient proof that I and my ancestors were kind, and that we love you, as you have exhibited the same disposition to us.

(Signed) TUMANEE BOJANG,
King of Combo, Yundum.

Witness:

(Signed) E. A. SMITH, Manager.
May 23, 1870.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 45. Gambia.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
June 10, 1870.

My Lord,

(Received June 28, 1870.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch from the Administrator of the Gambia, reporting the arrival of the French Admiral, commanding on this coast, accompanied by the Governor of Senegal.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 33.

Encl. in No. 33.

The Administrator of Government, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

(No. 54.)

Sir,

Government House, Gambia, June 6, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the French man-of-war "Bellone," bearing the flag of Admiral Bourgois, with his Excellency the Governor of Senegal on board, on Saturday last, accompanied by His Imperial Majesty's ship "Etoile."

It will be my endeavour to afford his Excellency every facility for acquiring a personal knowledge of this Settlement, as well as opportunities for making known the views of his Government to the inhabitants, the object for which it appears we owe the honour of his visit, and one which I cannot but think will tend to produce a beneficial understanding on the subject of the contemplated transfer of these Settlements to the French Government.

Colonel Valières informed me that he should probably remain some six or seven days, returning to Senegal, whilst Admiral Bourgois will proceed on a tour through his command.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALEXR. BRAVO, Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-chief.

No. 34.

No. 34.

Messrs. Forster and Smith to The Earl Granville, K.G.

New City Chambers, June 18, 1870.

My Lord,

(Answered June 23, 1870, page 50)

WE respectfully beg leave to address to your Lordship, on the negotiations stated to be on foot for the transfer of the Settlements on the Gambia River to the French Government, a request that, before any arrangements are concluded, or so far advanced as to be submitted to Parliament as the scheme of Her Majesty's Government, we and other merchants so deeply concerned may have an opportunity of furnishing information, and praying for consideration in the matter.

The number of residents of European birth in the place is small; the amount of English capital engaged is very large. The firm now addressing you has had for the last thirty years a sum usually, and at present, over 100,000*l.* sunk in it. We have large property in houses and warehouses, very large stocks of goods, large debts due to us, and a small fleet of vessels employed in the river and on the neighbouring coast. Confining ourselves to our personal interests, and not on this occasion presuming to call your Lordship's attention to the very serious questions that may arise from the claims to be considered British subjects of 5,000 or 6,000 Africans who have been transported or drawn to the Gambia by the direct action or encouragement of the British Government, or trust that your Lordship will recognize that we are not intruding unreasonably when we ask that we may, before it is too late, know exactly what is contemplated, and have opportunities for taking measures for our own protection, and asking your Lordship to protect our interests.

We may remark that in no instance have British merchants found it possible to carry on business of any importance in a French Settlement on the coast, so far as known to us, and our experience is older and larger than that of any other house in the African trade (but resident French merchants in Gambia at present do a large part of its trade). With such a fact before us, and the capital we have already stated as at stake, your Lordship cannot be surprised if we treat the question under consideration as of very great importance to us.

Your Lordship will permit us most respectfully to call your attention to the fact that the exchange of territories on the Gold Coast has been attended by ruin, in the literal sense of the word, to nearly all the merchants established there, and has been followed by the calamities of incessant wars and anarchy among the natives ever since. The last steamer brought news that a force of Elminas from the Dutch territory had penetrated into the English Protectorate to within three miles and a-half of Cape Coast Castle—a statement which would have appeared utterly incredible in Captain Maclean's administration. And we have, with all the deference possible, to submit that, if Mr. Andrew Swanzy or ourselves had been informed of the details of the measures contemplated, we could have given information and made suggestions that would have enabled the English and Dutch Governments to have attained their legitimate objects (of consolidating their possessions, raising revenue, and lessening expense) without the complete failure which has followed as to those objects, and the disastrous results to European and native merchants and peaceable native peasantry, that are well known in your Lordship's Department. We pray your Lordship to consider if this unfortunate precedent does not indicate the wisdom of allowing those so deeply interested an opportunity of being heard on the meditated transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed) FORSTER and SMITH.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
Colonial Office.

No. 35.

No. 35.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Messrs. Forster and Smith.

Gentlemen,

Downing Street, June 23, 1870.

* Page 49.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge your letter of the 18th* instant relative to the proposed transfer of the British settlements on the River Gambia to the French Government; and I am to acquaint you that Lord Granville is prepared to receive any statement on the subject with which you may wish to furnish him.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Forster and Smith,
New City Chambers.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

No. 36.

No. 36.

The Chamber of Commerce, Manchester, to The Earl Granville, K.G.

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester,
June 23, 1870.

My Lord,

THE attention of merchants and others in this district interested in our trade with the British settlements on the River Gambia has of late been drawn to the publicly alleged intention of Her Majesty's Government being in negotiation for the transfer of the Settlements on the Gambia to the French Government.

Your Lordship will be aware that, in contemplating the carrying out of such intention, a natural anxiety has arisen amongst our merchants in respect of their property and future interests on being transferred from the protection of Her Majesty's Government to be placed under the control of a foreign Power.

It has been under these circumstances that inquiries have been addressed to this Chamber, and I have been directed respectfully to request the favour of your

Lordship supplying me with official information of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in respect of our Settlements on the Gambia, which, it is hoped, will lay a very general uneasiness prevailing amongst merchants trading to those parts.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. BROWNING, Secretary.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

No. 37.

No. 37.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Thomas Browning, Esq.

Downing Street, June 28, 1870.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd* instant, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, that negotiations are going on with the French Government for exchange of territory on the West Coast of Africa, which will involve a cession of the Gambia, and that his Lordship will be ready to receive any statement on the subject from persons who conceive that their interests will be affected by the transfer.

* Page 50.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

H. T. HOLLAND.

Thomas Browning, Esq.,

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester.

No. 38.

No. 38.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

No. 135. Gambia.)

Downing Street, July 2, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 42* of the 2nd ultimo, with one from the Acting Administrator of the Gambia, enclosing a letter from the King of Combo, praying that certain territory ceded by him to Great Britain may be restored to him in the event of the Gambia being transferred to the French Government.

* Page 47.

I concur with you in thinking that this application cannot be prudently complied with, and you will cause the King to be so informed.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GRANVILLE.

Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 39.

No. 39.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

No. 136. Gambia.)

Downing Street, July 2, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 1st and 2nd ultimos, with the numbers and dates noted in the margin; and I have to approve the answer which has been returned to the Acting Administrator of the Gambia on the 2nd ultimo,† relative to the reorganization of the Police force at that Settlement.

† No. 37, June 2, 1870, page 42.
No. 39, June 2, 1870, page 43.

† See Enclosure 3 in Sir Arthur Kennedy's despatch to Lord Granville, dated 2nd June, 1870 (No. 39, Gambia), page 46.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GRANVILLE.

Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 40.

No. 40.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 138. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 4, 1870.

* Page 36.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 36* of the 2nd ultimo, forwarding a nominal return purporting to show the general status of the persons whose names are attached to the petition against the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France.

I think it highly important that some person who has been wholly unconnected with the Colony should be selected to administer the Government, and to conduct all the preliminary steps which must be taken to prepare for any negotiation for the transfer which would have to be concluded.

I should be glad to be informed whether you consider that Mr. Kendall, who will return to Sierra Leone by the mail-packet of the 14th instant, would be a suitable person to undertake the duty, or whether you are able to suggest any one more fitted for it.

If the Colony of Sierra Leone does not require your presence, and if you think it would be useful for the purpose of this negotiation that you should yourself proceed to Gambia and assume the Government for some adequate period, you are at liberty to take this course.

If you or Captain Kendall assume the Government of the Gambia, Major Bravo will of course return to Sierra Leone.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 41.

No. 41.

The Right Hon. E. Hammond to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 4, 1870.

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of a despatch and of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, upon the subject of the negotiations for the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France; and I am also to enclose a copy of the instructions that were sent to Lord Lyons to-night upon the subject.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

Enclosure 1 in No. 41.

Lord Lyons to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Paris, July 1, 1870.

WITH reference to the Earl of Clarendon's despatch of the 19th February last, and to my despatches of the 22nd and 31st March last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Duc de Gramont spoke to me yesterday of the proposed exchange of territory between Great Britain and France on the West Coast of Africa.

His Excellency begged me to ascertain from Her Majesty's Government how the matter now stood, and to let him know. He was, he said, led to ask this by reports which had reached the Government of the Emperor that the English authorities in the neighbourhood of the Gambia, had already announced to the inhabitants that their allegiance was to be transferred to France, and appeared moreover, to be in other ways making preparations for the exchange.

I told M. de Gramont that I had immediately communicated to Her Majesty's Government the *note verbale* given to me, March 30, by Count Daru, in which the conditions on which France was ready to agree to the exchange were set forth. I

July 1.
Telegram. July 3.
To Lord Lyons,
July 4.

Encl. 1 in No. 41.

had not yet, I added, received instructions from Her Majesty's Government respecting that note, and it seemed unlikely that any steps towards an actual transfer of the territory could have been taken on the spot, because (among other things) the sanction of Parliament had been expressly reserved as an indispensable condition in the *note verbale*, in which I had communicated the offer to the French Government. I observed, moreover, that recently Her Majesty's Government had, in answer to a question, declared in the House of Commons that the exchange would not be made without the consent of Parliament.

M. de Gramont said, in conclusion, that he should still be very much obliged if I would get for him, from Her Majesty's Government, authentic information as to what they hold the present position of the affair to be.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 41.

Encl. 2 in No. 41.

Lord Lyons to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Telegraphic.)

Paris, July 3, 1870, evening.

THE Duc de Gramont is anxious for an immediate answer to my despatch of the 1st instant, about the exchange of territory, as he will be questioned in the Chamber.

He says the British authorities on the spot have held an assembly of notables, and invited the French to send ships of war thither.

Enclosure 3 in No. 41.

Encl. 3 in No. 41.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 4, 1870.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 31st March last, reporting the conditions upon which the French Government are prepared to agree to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the cession of British territory in the Gambia in exchange for the surrender by the French of all rights acquired by them south of the River Dembia, I have to acquaint your Excellency that these conditions, as stated in Count Daru's *note verbale*, appear to be quite satisfactory. You are aware, however, that Her Majesty's Government are unable to make any definitive engagement without the sanction of Parliament, and I am to add that they have some reason to expect a statement on the subject from persons interested in the trade of the Colony, which they cannot preclude themselves from considering, and which may require them to make some additional representation to the French Government. Your Excellency will inform the French Government that, by the recent award of the President of the United States, the Island of Bulama and the territory opposite to it has been adjudged to belong to Portugal, and that Her Majesty's Government have therefore no power to transfer it to France, as they had engaged to do, had the decision been in their favour.

Her Majesty's Government presume that, in case any slight expenditure by way of compensation or otherwise should be required on the occasion of the transfer to recompense any persons resident at the Gambia, the French Government will be prepared to meet it.

I enclose for your Excellency's information two Memoranda, containing the substance of the Reports recently received from the Governors of Sierra Leone and the Gambia respecting the views of the natives and European traders with regard to the proposed transfer of the Gambia, which I wish you to communicate confidentially to the French Government, in order that proper measures may be concerted between the two Governments for carrying out their policy, and your Excellency should also request the French Government to use their influence with the French merchants at the Gambia to prevent any opposition on their part to this policy, and at the same time to enable Her Majesty's Government to assure the inhabi-

tants of the Settlement that their religion, property, and existing rights will be scrupulously respected after the transfer is effected.

I am, &c.

(For the Secretary of State)—
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

The Right Hon. Lord Lyons, G.C.B..
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 4 in No. 41.

Enclosure 4 in No. 41.

Memorandum on the views of the Natives with regard to the proposed Cession of the Gambia.

Sir A. Kennedy's
despatch, Confidential, March 29,
page 19.

THE native population is mixed, and in number about 4,000. They have no strong united or national feeling, such as obtains elsewhere on the coast, and Sir A. Kennedy does not believe that any serious reluctance or opposition would be offered by them on learning the equitable and safe terms which would, of course, be agreed upon as regards their rights and property.

Sir A. Kennedy's
despatch, Confidential, April 23,
page 25.

If the French Government can obtain or count upon the co-operation and sympathy of the French residents at the Gambia, Sir A. Kennedy does not apprehend the slightest difficulty in the transfer, and he thinks this the first and most important fact to be ascertained and the first step to be taken, as a coalition between them and the few British traders would strengthen the hands of both, if they were disposed to offer resistance to the transfer. The natives are docile and would be easily influenced if their rights and property were previously guaranteed.

The natives should be assured that their rights and property would be respected and that the sole object of Great Britain in making the transfer is to place them under the protection of an enlightened nation who could, by reason of their neighbouring possessions, more effectually protect them from the periodical raids of the barbarous tribes surrounding them, and at the same time encourage their staple trade, which was carried on mainly by France.

Sir A. Kennedy feels some confidence in being able by personal communication to satisfy any scruples of the natives, to whom the transfer would make no appreciable difference.

The French merchants could influence all those employed by and connected with them, and the French Government at Senegal should be authorized to impress upon those gentlemen the expediency of using their personal influence to facilitate the transfer, and above all to abstain from making common cause with any objectors whether British or native.

If the matter be not so mismanaged as to make it the interest of all three parties to combine, the opposition will be trifling indeed.

The presence of a French and English gun-boat would be most desirable, and McCarthy's Island should be occupied by a small force of French native troops, for a time at least.

Sir A. Kennedy's
despatch No. 20,
April 30, page 27.

A native petition, purporting to be signed by 400 persons, was got up by Mr. Finden, a black man keeping a grog shop, on the advice of Mr. Brown, a British merchant, protesting against being handed over to the French, as they would lose all their privileges, and their manners, laws, and customs would be changed, &c.

Sir A. Kennedy's
despatch No. 32,
May 10, page 32.

The Governor placed the names attached to the petition in the hands of his interpreter, an old, highly intelligent, and faithful public servant.

Enclosure B in
Sir A. Kennedy's
despatch No. 32,
May 10, page 34.

He reported (and the Governor had no doubt of its being substantially correct) that the names on the petition are those of some of the principal native residents, persons who emigrated from Sierra Leone, and many illiterate foreigners from the adjacent countries: a great many of whom are French subjects employed as mechanics, seamen, and labourers by European and native merchants, traders, and others, some of whom are not even aware of their names being placed on the petition—several of whom he had personally seen and conversed with. There are also names of persons who are now residing at Sierra Leone and never have been at the Gambia, such as Mr. Thomas F. Cuthbert, whose son went to the Gambia about a month ago, and, as he (the interpreter) was told, thought it a matter of course to place his father's name on the petition.

From the analysis of the signatures the interpreter found only ten persons who possessed any property, and, from information he had received, those several persons were encumbered with debts which would make them insolvent.

The Governor, on his arrival at the Gambia, invited all persons who had signed the petition to meet him, when Mr. Finden and about eighty persons assembled.

On that occasion he assured them of the security of their rights and properties acquired under the British rule being fully provided for and respected, and after going through all the arguments which appeared to him calculated to reconcile them to the proposed transfer, the Governor invited the deputation to ask any question they might deem pertinent.

Q. Would their religion be respected?—A. They might be assured of that.

Q. Would there be a Consul or other British resident?—A. Belief expressed at such an appointment would for a time at least be expedient.

They were then invited to put on paper anything they wished to be represented to Her Majesty's Government, which they did, as follows:—

1. They protest against any abandonment.
2. Are of opinion that if a Militia force was raised, and the Police force increased, they could defend themselves against any foreign aggressor.
3. Reduction of Civil staff.
4. Readiness to pay adequate taxes for requirements of the Settlement.
5. To be given a trial whether they can meet the requisite expenditure.

The Acting Administrator at the Gambia states his belief, from information he had received, that the feelings of the inhabitants bear out the Petition; and that, although very few were able to write their names, and may not have been able to understand its contents, they allowed their names to be attached as a protest against a transfer: and that he could not doubt that the Petitioners represent the property and intelligence of the native element. He gives the following particulars from a Return prepared for the Governor:—

Petitioners	..	..	..	..	..	509
Number styling themselves British subjects	..	..	..	..	..	374
Foreigners	..	..	..	..	..	135
Their property represented by	..	..	..	..	..	230
And returned at 11,904 <i>l.</i> , i.e., 52 <i>l.</i> per head.						

They are all led by Mr. Finden; they comprehend but one idea in regard to the change,—an averseness to French institutions from a knowledge derived from the adjoining Colonies of Goree and Senegal; they are naturally averse to change of any kind, and only the fact of transfer will convince them, if at all, that it is for their benefit.

The Administrator remarks, at the same time, that the population of Bathurst is of a migratory character, and consequently there are but few whose opinions are entitled to any consideration; and the repugnance of the natives of the surrounding country is to be found in the propensity of the French towards warlike expeditions.

Enclosure 5 in No. 41.

Encl. 5 in No. 41.

Memorandum on the views of the British Merchants with regard to the proposed Cession of the Gambia.

SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY invited the British merchants at the Gambia to meet him to discuss the subject of the transfer of the Settlement to France, and Messrs. Brown, Chown, and Quin were the only British residents who attended.

He states that a long and friendly discussion ensued during which he failed to discover any sound or sufficient reason against the proposed transfer, and that, indeed, Messrs. Brown and Chown left him with the impression that they were not averse to it. Mr. Quin, however, expressed his strong dissent, but failed to adduce any reasonable grounds against the transfer.

To obviate the possibility of any misapprehension of their views and arguments, Sir A. Kennedy invited them to furnish him with their views and objections in writing, or, if disposed to acquiesce in the views of Her Majesty's Government, to state any conditions which they would desire to see attached to the transfer.

They had not, nor did they intend, Sir A. Kennedy believed, to furnish him with any statement or expressions of their opinion.

Sir A. Kennedy remarks in another despatch that, if the British merchants are not content with the advantage of selling out to the French firms, the true value of their interests could be easily arrived at by considering the Settlement in the light of a firm whose commercial transactions are represented by imports and exports

Sir A. Kennedy's despatch No. 32, May 10, page 32.

Enclosure A in Sir A. Kennedy's despatch No. 32, May 10, page 34.

Acting Administrator of the Gambia, No 2, May 13, page 35.

Sir A. Kennedy's despatch No. 32, May 10, page 32.

Sir A. Kennedy, Confidential, April 23, page 25.

amounting to 90,000*l.*, and calculating a fair annual profit upon that amount, not forgetting, at the same time, to consider the precarious nature of the trade and climate to be contended with.

The value of real estate in the whole Settlement is estimated as follows:—

The principal street of Bathurst contains twenty-four houses, comprising all the mercantile establishments, French and English, which would be highly valued at 3,000*l.* each, making a total of 72,000*l.*

There are twenty-six houses in the second street, of an average value of 500*l.* each, making a total of 13,000*l.*

The remaining rent estate may be put down at a total value of 5,000*l.*

No. 42.

No. 42.

Messrs. Forster and Smith to The Earl Granville, K.G.

My Lord,

New City Chambers, July 4, 1870.

• Page 50.

WE have to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Holland's letter of the 23rd June,* informing us that your Lordship is prepared to receive any statement on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Gambia River to the French Government, with which we may wish to furnish your Lordship.

We wish respectfully, but earnestly, to disclaim any desire to throw unreasonable difficulties in the way of the very important operation, for the French Government, which is contemplated. The acquisition of the Gambia is almost a necessary complement of the measures, costly in money and in valuable lives, which they have for half a century been directing from the Senegal and Goree. But our own interests in this matter are so very largely and seriously involved, that your Lordship cannot fail to recognize our claim, that they be considered, and cannot feel surprised at our most strenuous exertions to obtain a hearing and protection.

Our firm was the first to embark largely in the trade of the Gambia; when we say that there has been no important development of it in which we have not taken the lead, we say what your Lordship will find all acquainted with it admit. The first introduction of the ground-nut trade, at present the staple of the river, was due to us. At great risk and ultimate loss we kept open, from Gambia, the trade in gum at Portendic, which was at last ended by an act of illegal violence of the French Government. After fifty years of such connection with the river, of course we found large investments in house and other property, shipping, stocks of goods, and debts. It is a peculiarity of the African trade, that business cannot be carried on without large advances to the natives: a large sum must be sunk in risk debts for any trade done with them.

The greatest part of the ground-nut crop goes to France; it is through that country that remittances are made to us. This circumstance, and the fact that French merchants reside, and French goods are admitted, on terms of perfect equality with English, have introduced into the river a strong French commercial society. The trade is now divided among four English, and as many French houses. These do not conduct their business in the same way; the French houses have no establishments of importance out of St. Mary's: they have few direct relations with the natives, and few debts due to them. They have, in fact, relied much on the English houses to supply the advances required; and may be said, in a certain sense, to have been parasitic dependents on their trade.

The prospect of cession to France is, under such circumstances, of course most alarming to us. It is certain that nearly all our advances to the natives would be lost; they would consider the English as virtually deposed; the French houses would have the immense advantage in competition with us, which the French authorities would give them; and, we are sorry to have to add, that we should be deprived of any countenance and support, the precedent of the Senegal and Goree at once presents itself. When those places were restored to France, after the great war, English merchants were told they could remain on equal terms with the French. We believe there is not one English merchant now at either, certainly none of importance. And this was the result, though England was the market for the produce of Senegal gum,—an advantage we should not have in the case of the Gambia.

We have, most hastily and imperfectly, indicated some of the causes of alarm.

We trust that they will be enough to induce your Lordship to comply with our respectful prayer for information as to what measures for the protection of existing British interests are to be introduced into the negotiation for the transfer of the River to France, and that we may have an opportunity of considering the details of the Treaty, and offering, for your Lordship's consideration, our suggestions.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

FORSTER and SMITH.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 43.

No. 43.

Thomas Browning, Esq., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

Chamber of Commerce, Manchester.

July 4, 1870.

My Lord,
BY this post I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a Memorial from the Directors of this Chamber on the subject of the cession to France of the British Settlements on the River Gambia, West Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. BROWNING, Secretary.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 43.

Encl. in No. 43.

Memorial.

To the Right Honourable the Earl Granville, K.G., &c., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce ;
by their Chairman.

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT your Memorialists have recently been informed that the transfer of the Settlements on the Gambia, on the West Coast of Africa, to the French, is now being negotiated by Her Majesty's Government.

That strong representations have been made to your Memorialists, deprecating these negotiations as being opposed to the wishes and interests of the British colonists, the natives, and French residents, all of whom have protested against the transfer of their persons and properties to the control of a foreign Power.

That, as your Memorialists are informed, the wishes of the colonists in this matter have not been consulted, and the negotiations carried on without any official notification being given even to the Governor or the Legislative Council.

That the rumoured intention of the transfer has already been the occasion of threats of violence from the natives, who have a great dread of the French ; and the serious deterioration, which it is certain the change would effect in the value of property and trading interests, is regarded by merchants and others with serious apprehension.

That the people of the Gambia speak the English language, are loyal subjects, and have hitherto been prosperous and contented under British rule. That the confusion which would inevitably ensue on the transfer to French Government and laws would materially affect the trade of the Colony, now rapidly growing and remunerative ; and, as there are no special reasons which, in the opinion of your Memorialists, can justify so unusual an interference with the property and interests of British subjects, your Memorialists therefore pray that your Lordship will take the subject into your early and serious consideration, and that for these and other

reasons you will be induced to use your influence against the contemplated transfer of the Settlements of the Gambia being carried into effect.

(Signed)

J. M. BENNETT, President.

THOS. BROWNING, Secretary.

Manchester, July 4, 1870.

No. 44.

No. 44.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir

Foreign Office, July 6, 1870.

* Page 52.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 4th instant,* I am directed by the Secretary of State to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of a despatch and its enclosure from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, on the subject of the proposed transfer of Gambia to France.

July 5.

I am, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed)

ARTHUR OTWAY.

Encl. 1 in No. 44.

Enclosure 1 in No. 44.

The Lord Lyons to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Paris, July 5, 1870.

I PUT this afternoon into the hand of the Duc de Gramont a *note verbale* drawn up in very nearly the exact words of your Lordship's despatch of yesterday respecting the proposed exchange of territory between Great Britain and France on the West Coast of Africa. I at the same time gave his Excellency copies of the two Memoranda which accompanied your despatch.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the *note verbale*.

M. de Gramont said that a French naval officer, Captain Duperré, who had lately arrived from the Coast of Africa, reported that the English authorities had withdrawn, or were on the point of withdrawing, from the Gambia. Such being the case, the country could not, M. de Gramont observed, be left without Government to lapse into barbarism. What was it that the British authorities meant? Should the French (he asked) enter at once into the territory and take possession of it?

I replied that I had most certainly no authority to consent to anything of the kind. The papers which I had just given him were, I pointed out, entirely inconsistent with the notion that Her Majesty's Government had in any way sanctioned the immediate transfer of the territory. On the contrary, it was declared in them that Her Majesty's Government would be unable to make any definite engagement without the consent of Parliament, and that they must moreover consider a statement about to be submitted to them by persons interested in the trade of the Colony; finally, the papers contained a request to the Government of the Emperor to concert measures with Her Majesty's Government for removing difficulties relating to the transfer. All this, I observed, completely contradicted the notion that Her Majesty's Government were disposed virtually to abandon the territory without further negotiation. In conclusion, I asked M. de Gramont to make me acquainted with the exact particulars of the information brought by Captain Duperré. M. de Gramont answered that he would send me a written *note* of these particulars.

I have, &c.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

(Signed)

LYONS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 44.

Note Verbale.

ON the 31st March Count Daru put into Lord Lyons' hand a *note verbale* setting the conditions upon which the Government of the Emperor were prepared to agree to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the cession of British territory in the Gambia, in exchange for the surrender by the French of all rights acquired by them south of the River Dembia.

The conditions laid down in that *note verbale* appear to Her Majesty's Government to be quite satisfactory, but Her Majesty's Government are unable to make definite engagements without the sanction of Parliament; and they have, moreover, reason to expect a statement from persons interested in the trade of the colony, which they cannot preclude themselves from considering, and which may induce them to make some additional representation to the Government of the Emperor.

By the recent award of the President of the United States of America, the island of Bulama and the territory opposite to it have been adjudged to belong to Portugal, and Her Majesty's Government have therefore no power to transfer them to France, as they were prepared to do if the award had been in favour of Great Britain.

Her Majesty's Government presume that, in case any slight expenditure by way of compensation or otherwise should be required on the occasion of the transfer in order to recompense any persons resident at the Gambia, the French Government will be prepared to meet it.

The two Memoranda which accompany this paper contain the substance of reports recently received from the Governors of Sierra Leone and the Gambia, setting out the views of the natives and European traders with regard to the proposed transfer. These two documents are communicated confidentially to the Duke of Gramont in order that proper measures for carrying out the policy of the Governments may be concerted between them. Her Majesty's Government also ask the Government of the Emperor to use its influence with the French merchants at the Gambia to prevent opposition on their part to this policy. Finally, Her Majesty's Government would ask the Government of the Emperor to induce them to assure the inhabitants of the Settlement that their religion, property, and existing rights, shall be scrupulously respected after the transfer has been carried into effect.

July 5, 1870.

No. 45.

No. 45.

The Right Hon. E. Hammond to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Foreign Office, July 8, 1870.

WITH reference to my letter of the 6th instant,* and to former correspondence relative to the proposed exchange of territory between France and England on the West Coast of Africa, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris, enclosing a Statement and Return relating to the trade on the West Coast of Africa.

* Page 58.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.
Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Enclosure 1 in No. 45.

Encl. 1 in No. 45.

The Lord Lyons to The Earl Granville, K.G.

Paris, July 7, 1870.
IN answer to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, 6.50 P.M., I transmit herewith to your Lordship a statement and a return relating to the Trade on the West Coast of Africa.

West Coast of Africa, which I have just received from the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, with a message that the Department is not in possession of any returns as to the numbers of British traders in the French Settlements, but that in Senegal there are certainly none.

I have only time to forward the documents to your Lordship, without reading or keeping copies of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Encl. 2 in No. 45.

Enclosure 2 in No. 45.

Statement on the Trade of the West Coast of Africa.

L'EMPLOI de l'arachide ou pistache de terre à la fabrication des huiles destinées à la savonnerie a transformé complètement le commerce de la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, et a assuré, sur un grand nombre de points, la suprématie aux négociants Français.

Le commerce Anglais ne recherche que l'huile de palme, l'ivoire, et la poudre d'or, fort peu demandés par le commerce Français. Les efforts des négociants Anglais se sont concentrés dans le Golfe de Guinée et dans le vaste delta du Niger qui fournissent abondamment ces produits.

A partir de Joal jusqu'à Sierra Leone la culture de l'arachide est très développée. Il en résulte que le commerce Français a pris, au détriment du commerce Anglais, un accroissement remarquable depuis le Sénégal jusqu'à Sierra Leone. Aujourd'hui la Colonie Anglaise de la Gambie n'est guère fréquentée que par des navires du commerce Français. Il en est de même dans les cours d'eau situés au sud de l'Archipel des Bissagos et au nord de Sierra Leone, c'est-à-dire dans le Rio Pongo, le Rio Nunez, et la Mellacorée.

En revanche, et pour la même raison, le commerce Français n'a pu tirer un part avantageux des établissements fondés à Grand Bassam, Dabou, et Assini dont le principal commerce porte sur l'huile de palme, la poudre d'or, et l'ivoire. On ne compte que trois maisons Françaises dans ces parages.

Sur les 40,000,000 francs qui forment le chiffre total du commerce Français à Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, le Rio Pongo, le Rio Nunez, et la Mellacorée comptent pour 12,000,000 francs.

Encl. 3 in No. 45.

Enclosure 3 in No. 45.

RÉSUMÉ Comparatif du Commerce de la France :—1. Avec la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, du Maroc au Cap de Bonne Espérance (non compris le Sénégal et les Possessions Anglaises de la Côte Occidentale) ; 2. Avec les dites Possessions Anglaises et de la Côte Occidentale, y compris le Cap de Bonne Espérance ; 3. Avec Sénégal et Dépendances, pendant les années 1847 et 1868.

(D'après les Tableaux du Commerce Général de la France avec ses Colonies et avec l'Étranger.)

VALEURS ACTUELLES. (Commerce Général.)*

Côte Occidentale d'Afrique—	Année 1847.				Francs.	Francs.
	Exportations de France	..	..	..	2,398,939	
Importations en France	..	..	..	..	6,033,439	
						8,432,378

* On classe en France, sous le titre de "Commerce Spécial :"—Dans l'exportation, les marchandises Françaises exportées. 2. Dans l'importation, tout ce qui a été importé définitivement, c'est-à-dire, non consommé sous le paiement des droits.

Sous le titre de "Commerce Général" on comprend : 1. Dans l'importation, tout ce qui est arrivé en France par navires Français ou par navires étrangers, sans égard à la destination ultérieure des marchandises, soit pour consommation, soit pour le transit, soit pour l'exportation. 2. Dans l'exportation, les marchandises Françaises étrangères exportées.

Possessions Anglaises de la Côte Occidentale, y compris le Cap de Bonne Espérance.*

Sénégal et Dépendances—					Francs.	Francs.
Exportations de France	..	..	..	..	11,398,234	
Importations en France	..	..	..	..	5,169,414	
						16,567,648
Totaux	..	..	..	..	..	25,000,026

Année 1868.

Côte Occidentale d'Afrique—						
Exportations de France	..	..	..	..	8,567,809	
Importations en France	..	..	..	..	15,506,525	
						24,074,334

Possessions Anglaises de la Côte Occidentale, y compris le Cap de

Bonne Espérance—						
Exportations de France	..	..	..	..	7,571,010	
Importations en France	..	..	..	..	471,735	
						8,042,745
Sénégal et Dépendances—						
Exportations de France	..	..	..	..	15,462,380	
Importations en France	..	..	..	..	16,181,915	
						31,644,295
Totaux	..	..	..	..	..	63,761,374

On voit par les chiffres ci-dessus que le commerce général de la France avec la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, qui n'était, en 1847, que de 25,000,000 francs, dont 16,567.000 francs pour le Sénégal et Dépendances, et de 8,432,000 francs pour le reste de la côte, s'est élevé, en 1868, à près de 64,000,000 francs. Ce dernier chiffre représente une augmentation de plus de 150 pour cent sur ensemble de ce mouvement commercial, et de 100 pour cent sur la part qui en est afférente au Sénégal et Dépendances.

No. 46.

No. 46.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
July 11, 1870.

(Received July 30, 1870.)

(No. 52. Gambia.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a despatch from the Acting Administrator of the Gambia, No. 66 of the 2nd July, 1870,* together with the Minutes of the Legislative Council of that Settlement for the half-year ending 30th June, 1870.

* Only a covering despatch, and therefore not printed.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 46.

Encl. in No. 46.

Extract from the Minutes of the Legislative Council of the 5th of May, 1870.

HIS Excellency the Governor-in-chief then referred to the contemplated transfer of these Settlements to the French Government, and called upon the Honourable unofficial Member of Council for his views on the subject.

The Honourable Mr. Brown stated he had no objections personally, provided equitable terms are arranged, and all rights respected in view of the contemplated arrangements of withdrawing protection and increasing taxation.

No. 47.

No. 47.

Sir F. Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Manchester.

Sir,

Downing Street, July 12, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant,* and enclosing a Memorial from the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which they request the Secretary of State to use his influence against the contemplated transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

Page 53

* En 1847 le Tableau Général du Commerce de la France n'avait pas encore ouvert de compte spécial aux possessions Anglaises de la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique.

Lord Kimberley desires me to state, in reply, that he will readily receive from the Chamber of Commerce any statement which they may be good enough to furnish that would show the magnitude of the commercial interests affected, and the number of persons concerned; he would also request to be placed in possession of their reasons for supposing that the above-mentioned interests would be injured by the transfer, and of any suggestions for removing or mitigating that injury in case the English Government should transfer the sovereignty of the settlement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) **FREDERIC ROGERS.**

The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Manchester.

No. 48.

No. 48.

Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Downing Street. July 12, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a memorial from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce against the contemplated transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

I also annex a copy of the reply which I have caused to be returned to the Memorialists, and I have to request that you will inform me what truth there is in the allegation that the natives threaten violence.

I am, &c.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) **KIMBERLEY.**

No. 49.

No. 49.

Thos. Brown, Esq., to Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley.

Thatched House Club, St. James's Street,
July 12, 1870.

My Lord,

HAVING very recently arrived from the Gambia, where I have resided nearly forty years largely engaged in its commerce, and having considerable property there, I trust your Lordship will not consider me intrusive in addressing you on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Settlements there to France.

I can assure your Lordship that the whole population of those Settlements is strongly opposed to the cession; they have a thorough knowledge of the French rule in the neighbouring Colonies of Senegal and Goree, and they do not desire to exchange the mild rule of Great Britain for the more despotic one of France.

The larger proportion of the native inhabitants of the Settlements on the Gambia are liberated Africans, their descendants, and a few West Indians, who have all been educated and brought up in the Protestant Faith, under the British; they are loyal subjects of Her Majesty, and attached to British institutions under which they have lived; and many of them have, by their industry and frugality, acquired (comparatively speaking) considerable property, owning houses, stores, and vessels; the status of these men will be very much lowered in their social and political position under the French.

It may not be out of place here to remark the significant fact, that whilst in the British Settlements and Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, French merchants are to be found established in nearly all of them, not one British merchant is to be found settled in any one of the French possessions on the Coast, although taxation in their Colonies is much less than in ours; and I feel convinced that the British merchants now settled in the Gambia will (if the transfer be made) be so materially injured in their trade and property that it will be impossible for them to continue their trade there with profit.

The trade in the Settlements on the Gambia is one involving the permanent investment of large capital in the erection of houses, warehouses, stores, shops, and jetties, as also in vessels adapted to the river trade, and in goods and property in

the hands of the natives up the river, and in advances made them to enable them to cultivate the ground-nuts; to realize these in our altered position will entail a very large sacrifice of property, which, in equity and justice, I submit to your Lordship, should be paid by the French, who will be considerable gainers not only by the consolidation of their present possessions, but in intrinsic money value, by a largely increased trade.

I have myself over 24,000*l.* invested in houses, warehouses, shops, factories, and other buildings; and in vessels, boats, and canoes 4,500*l.*, to realize these two items a loss of at least 25 per cent. would have to be made.

On the 31st May last, the balances standing in my books against factories, traders, and advances to natives was 35,412*l.*, this is a fluctuating amount: in the beginning of the season, say from December to February, it often reaches the sum of 48,000*l.*, whilst in August and September it is generally reduced to 25,000*l.*; in the event of the transfer being made this item will be the most difficult to realize, and at least two-thirds of it will be an entire loss.

In Bathurst I have in goods and property in store, machinery and plant necessary for carrying on the business, and in current accounts 16,000*l.*: to realize these there would, at the lowest estimate, be a loss of 15 per cent.

From the statement made by Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell in the House of Commons, it appears the cession of Gambia to France is to be made to settle the boundaries of the possessions of the two countries on the Coast of Africa; if therefore, Imperial interests require it, I most humbly contend that the Imperial purse, and not the private property of individuals should be called upon to make the sacrifice.

When public interests in this country tend, directly or indirectly, to the injury of private property or private interests, ample compensation is always made, as in the case of railway companies, and public improvements, where they pay not only for the property taken, but for consequential damages, as well as for the loss of the profits of trade, and the derangement thereof.

It is understood that the French Government is to pay the English Government the value of the public buildings, most of which have been built from Colonial revenue, and this would form no inconsiderable sum towards the amount that would, be required for compensation.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) THOMAS BROWN.

No. 50.

No. 50.

Memorial of Merchants and others to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Right Honourable the Earl Kimberley, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Undersigned merchants, manufacturers, and traders of London, interested in the African Trade.

Sheweth,

THAT your Memorialists have learnt with surprise and regret, that negotiations are pending for the cession to France of the Settlements on the River Gambia; and their alarm at what must in any case be the cause of great loss to many of them is increased by the fact, that its terms and conditions are wholly unknown to the merchants, who are most deeply interested as having large property in the Settlements.

Your Memorialists humbly submit to your Lordship the propriety of affording them information as to the terms and conditions of this cession, as from their local knowledge and experience, they having all been long engaged in the trade and several of them many years resident in the Colony, they must be able to offer many suggestions for your Lordship's consideration.

Your Memorialists take leave to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Settlements on the Gambia involve no pecuniary charge whatever upon the mother-country, the troops, and all Parliamentary aid having been withdrawn, the Settlements raise a revenue of their own of 17,000*l.* per annum, 10,897*l.* of which is expended in maintaining an unnecessarily large staff of Civil Officers appointed by the Crown.

Your Memorialists respectfully contend, that if Imperial interests require that the Settlements on the Gambia should be ceded to France and that private interests must yield to the public good, it will yet be unjust to make the cession at the pecuniary loss of the British merchants residing and carrying on business there and in this country.

Your Memorialists therefore pray your Lordship not to proceed with the negotiations for the cession of the Gambia to France; but that if the urgency of the French Government, or the wish to obtain advantages for this country elsewhere in exchange for the Gambia, induces your Lordship to continue them, care may be taken to provide compensation for the heavy loss that must inevitably befall the merchants: not merely in the loss of the business and position acquired by years of labour, but by the sacrifice of a great part of the capital locked up in the trade, and which it will be impossible to withdraw or to make available in Gambia as a French possession.

(Signed)

FORSTER and SMITH.

(And 41 others.)

July 14th, 1870.

No. 51.

No. 51.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
July 20, 1870.

(No. 58. Gambia.) (Extract.)
(Extract.)

(Received August 19, 1870.)

(Answered No. 18, August 30, 1870, page 86.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit a newspaper extract which has been forwarded to me on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Gambia.

A departure from the wholesome rule of leaving such publications unnoticed till an explanation is called for may be justified in the present instance in consequence of this "statement of facts" having been published on the authority of Mr. Thomas Brown, a member of the Legislative Council at the Gambia.

I have numbered these "facts" in the extract for more easy reference.

No. 1. The "flourishing trade" alleged by Mr. Brown to exist, has been sufficiently disposed of in my previous despatches. The total imports into the settlement in 1869 amounted in value to 94,000*l.*, of which Great Britain contributed one-half.

The exports amounted to 91,000*l.*, of which one-fifth was exported to Great Britain.

Pages 30 and 32. No. 2. My proceedings here adverted to, were reported in my despatch dated from Gambia on the 5th of May, 1870, and No. 32, dated the 10th May, 1870;* and it will be observed, very materially differs from Mr. Brown's "statement of facts." I presume I need hardly occupy your Lordship's time in controverting some of the absurdities attributed to me by Mr. Brown. The petition from the so-called inhabitants, I presume, contains all the "facts" to be alleged, and your Lordship has it before you.

No. 3. * * * * *

No. 4. This is a groundless misstatement. It is well known at the Colonial Office that "the natives up the river" have had repeated collisions with the British Government, and are always in a chronic state of disturbance which they term "war."

No. 5. This formidable affair has been reported in my despatch No. 50 of the 30th June, 1870.

No. 6. A reference to the foregoing statement of imports and exports will sufficiently prove that these figures (250,000*l.*) is an impossible misstatement.

No. 7. * * * * *

No. 8. This 140,000*l.* value of annual exports is a gross exaggeration.

No. 9. Mr. Brown does not show how "the representation" can be amended. The person who headed the petition can neither read nor write, and the few Europeans, who are clerks and factors to Messrs. Brown, Chown, and Quin, quit the settlement with their principals at the beginning of each so-called "funeral season" for England.

At this moment they are all absent, and, but for the "officials," the place would be deserted.

No. 10. The Government is undoubtedly disappointed and necessarily

expensive, and for this among other reasons I have advocated the transfer of the settlement.

No. 11. This is very wide of the truth, though it is a fact that several subordinate appointments have been filled up by natives from Sierra Leone for the simple reason that candidates of respectable character who could read and write were not forthcoming at the Gambia.

No. 12. 4,200*l.* have been set aside to drain the swamp surrounding Bathurst to make it available for either natives or Europeans during the rains. This sum falls far short of covering the expense for work required.

I may remark that the Crown officials earn their very poor salaries very hardily, and at the daily risk of their lives. They must remain at their posts during the rainy season, when all other Europeans absent themselves.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

Enclosure in No. 51.

[Encl. in No. 51.]

Extract from the "Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser," July 2, 1870.

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—THE CESSION OF GAMBIA TO FRANCE.—A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday at York Chambers, King Street, to meet a deputation of merchants and others interested in the trade of Gambia in relation to the proposed cession to France of the British Settlements on the River Gambia on the West Coast of Africa. Mr. Alderman J. M. Bennett, the President of the Board, occupied the Chair, and the other members present were:—Messrs. Malcolm Ross, E. Johnson, J. Dorrington, J. Slagg, jun., P. M'Laren, S. Ogden, and Murray Gladstone. The deputation consisted of Messrs. J. F. Hutton (Hutton and Co.), Milner (J. A. Turner and Co.), Brierley and Jackson (Brierley, Jackson, and Briggs), Thornber (Spartali and Co.), and Keymer (Fallows and Keymer). Mr. Thomas Brown, recently returned from Gambia (a merchant, and member of the Legislative Council), was also present.

It was stated that no official communication had been made to the Legislature of Gambia, or to the British merchants settled there, of the negotiations said to be in progress for the cession of the British Settlements to France, and as its effects in placing British commercial interests under foreign rule would, it was alleged, have a very prejudicial effect, considerable anxiety had arisen in connection with the subject among those who were likely to be affected thereby. The deputation strongly expressed their views as to the effect of the transfer.

The following "statement of facts," prepared by Mr. Brown, will give an idea of the present position of the question:—

"These Settlements were established shortly after the Peace of 1814, when the English merchants, who had been residing and trading in Senegal and Goree during the English occupation of those places, were obliged, in their own interests, to remove elsewhere; and they then resorted to the River Gambia and formed the present Settlement of Bathurst, on the Island of St. Mary's, at the mouth of the river, where they have, for over fifty years, carried on a large and flourishing trade. (1.)

"The Settlements now consist of, in addition to the Government, four English mercantile houses, which have been established for nearly half a century, and a considerable number of native traders and shopkeepers, almost all of whom have been born and brought up under English rule. More recently four French houses have been established there. There are also about 20,000 native inhabitants in the colony.

"On the 1st of May the French gun-boat 'Etoile' arrived at Bathurst, Gambia, having on board a French Engineer Officer and the Director of the Interior of Senegal, with letters from their Governor requesting the Administrator of the Gambia to allow these officers to survey and examine the public buildings, which was granted.

"On the 5th of the same month, Sir Arthur Kennedy, the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements, arrived and met the French officers at Bathurst. He at once called a meeting of the merchants, native traders, and inhabitants, and

informed them, in reference to the Petition of the natives to Lord Granville, that, although he had received no official information from the Colonial Minister, yet, from what had been told him at the Colonial Office before leaving England, he had no doubt that Gambia would be transferred to the French on the condition of their retiring from the Rivers Mellicoree, Sherbro, and Gaboon, and on their paying for all the Government buildings at Gambia; but he was unable to give any particulars as to the terms or other conditions of the transfer, nor could he hold out any prospects of compensation to those engaged in the Gambia trade. The injustice and pecuniary losses which would result from such a proceeding were pointed out to Sir Arthur Kennedy at this meeting. The British merchants and inhabitants unanimously protested against the transfer, and urged that, if it were imperative, then they should be compensated for the losses they would sustain.

"On the 5th of June, the French Admiral (Burgois), with Colonel Valière, the Governor of Senegal, arrived in Gambia on board the frigate 'Bellone,' having the gun-boat 'Etoile' in company. Major A. Bravo, the Administrator of the Gambia, immediately called meetings of the merchants, as also of the native traders and inhabitants of Bathurst, to introduce them to the Governor of Senegal, in order to learn his views on the intended transfer. Colonel Valière stated that his visit was not an official one, as the transfer of the Gambia to the French had not been completed; but he could assure them that taxation would be very considerably reduced, and ample protection to trade would be afforded, and he would be glad to hear their opinions on the subject.

- (3.) "The merchants replied they had received no intimation of the transfer, nor had they any idea of the terms or conditions proposed; but they stated that they preferred to remain under the British flag. The native traders and inhabitants protested most strongly against being handed over to France.

"On the 8th of June, the French Admiral went up the river, as far as Badiboo, in the gun-boat 'Etoile,' accompanied by some of the British officials. It was stated that the object of the visit up the river was to exhibit the French flag there.

- (4.) "The natives up the river are much alarmed and incensed even at the proposal to hand over their river to the French: and, by accounts just received from Bathurst, information has been received that the natives have threatened to invade McCarthy's Island up the River Gambia, to burn and destroy the factories there, and to carry off the goods of the merchants into the interior before the French get possession.

"It is certain that the transfer of Gambia to France will be attended with very serious losses to the British merchants and traders settled there. The whole trade is carried on on the banks of the river, and the merchants are obliged to give out large amounts of property on credit.

- (6.) "During the trading season goods and property to the value of about 250,000*l.* belonging to the British are at stake in the hands of the natives, and it is to be feared that they, having so great a dread of the French, would leave the banks of the river and retire inland, and there is no doubt the merchants would thereby lose nearly half their goods and property.

- (7.) "The trade, which is prosperous, would materially suffer by the transfer, and the large and expensive mercantile establishments which are now required would be very much deteriorated in value, thus increasing the loss the British merchants would sustain by being transferred to the French Government. It may be added that the Settlements in Gambia entail no expense whatever to England; the troops have been wholly withdrawn, as also all Parliamentary grants.

- (8.) "The annual exports of the Gambia amount to about 140,000*l.* The revenue is raised by taxes on the trade, such taxes being imposed by the Legislative Council, which consists of three Government officers and of only one merchant, all appointed by the Crown; the tax-paying community are always out-voted, and consequently inadequately represented.

- (10.) "The estimated revenue for 1870 amounts to 17,100*l.* An unnecessarily large staff of Civil officers, appointed by the Crown, is maintained, contrary to the wishes of the Colony. Their salaries and allowances alone swallow up annually 10,897*l.*; in addition to this, a sum of 1,053*l.* is paid by the Colony for pensions of retired officers,—thereby nearly 75 per cent. of the revenue raised by the Colony is paid to the servants of the Crown, in whose appointments the taxpayers have no voice, and these Crown officials have no interest in the Colony beyond drawing their salaries and pensions.

"Under the present Administrator and Governor-in-chief, all appointments in

Gambia have been filled up either from England or from Sierra Leone, to the entire exclusion of persons born or residing in the Settlements, who contribute to its revenue. It may also be mentioned that, notwithstanding these heavy Imperial charges on the inhabitants, the Colony has expended in Bathurst alone fully 30,000*l.* on public works and buildings, and, by order of the Crown, it has invested a surplus of 4,200*l.* in New Zealand Bonds.

(11.)

"The prosperity of the Settlement, and the requirements of the trade, induced British merchants to erect considerable establishments and dwelling-houses, the value of which may be estimated at not less than 60,000*l.*; to realize this property a great sacrifice would have to be made. Merchants having establishments and property in the river cannot possibly dispose of them or liquidate their affairs under a considerable time, during which they would be compelled to carry on their trade to great disadvantage, and would be subject to the French laws as regards the disposal of all their property."

(12.)

The deputation urged that it was desirable that immediate action should be taken in support of Memorials addressed to the Colonial Secretary by the merchants and the colonists of Gambia; and that such transfer was uncalled for by any special circumstances, the Colony being prosperous and contented.

It was resolved, on the proposition of Mr. Malcolm Ross, seconded by Mr. Murray Gladstone, that a Petition be presented to the House of Commons complaining of the proposed transfer of Gambia to France, and that a Memorial to the same effect be addressed to the Colonial Secretary.

No. 52.

No. 52.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Thos. Brown, Esq.

Sir,

Downing Street, July 21, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge your letter of the 12th instant,* regarding the proposed transfer of the British Settlements on the Gambia; and I am to acquaint you that the representations you bring forward will receive due consideration from his Lordship.

* Page 62.

I am, &c.

Thomas Brown, Esq.,

(Signed)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

Thatched House Club, St. James's.

No. 53.

No. 53.

Messrs. Quin and Brown to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord,

44. Ludgate Hill, London, July 21, 1870.

YOUR Lordship having informed us, at our interview with you, that Her Majesty's Government had decided to transfer the Settlements on the River Gambia to France, notwithstanding such transfer is strongly opposed to the wishes and interests of the European and native population of these Settlements; and also that you were prepared to receive from us any statements we desired to make in reference to the pecuniary and other losses such an act will necessarily entail upon us, we, still earnestly protesting against the transfer of British subjects, their homes and property, to a foreign nation, against their consent, respectfully submit:—

That the Settlements on the Gambia were founded, and established in 1816, by British capital and industry, and principally by British merchants who had settled in Senegal and Gorce during the British occupation of those Colonies. After the conclusion of the war these Settlements were restored to the French; but it was stipulated and agreed that the British merchants who had in the meantime settled there might remain, and carry on the trade on an equal footing with French subjects, and this arrangement was guaranteed by Treaty; these merchants and British subjects soon found themselves, however, so hampered and interfered with, that they were glad to leave those places at a great sacrifice of property, and found a new home for themselves in the Gambia, where many of their descendants still are

carrying on the trade; your Lordship will here find that facts are opposed to the theory that British commerce can flourish under the French flag.

We have also other instances equally striking, and within our personal knowledge, and at a heavy cost to us, of the way in which British traders and commerce have been driven out by the French in the River Cazamance and Rio Nunez, where for many years previously to the French having established themselves, we carried on a large and profitable English trade, which is now nearly extinct; and the same may be said with truth of the Rivers Saloom and Saine, contiguous to the Gambia.

With this experience before us, is it surprising that we should look forward with feelings of dismay to the French occupation of the Gambia, however specious the arguments in favour of the cession, and great the inducements held out to us of increased protection and diminished taxation, under the French rule may be?

It is extremely difficult for us to define, with exactitude, the precise pecuniary losses which the proposed cession will inevitably cause to us, and all other native British traders in the Gambia; but, nevertheless, we will endeavour to convey to your mind, in a general way at present (reserving to ourselves the right to give your Lordship statistical statements hereafter), the enormous sacrifices we shall be compelled to make, we will now proceed to point them out as briefly as we can.

On the faith of the continuance of British rule and British institutions, we have gone on increasing our investments in houses, stores, wharves, factories, all over the river from Bathurst at its mouth, to nearly 400 miles along both banks thereof.

The staple article of export is (as your Lordship is doubtless aware), ground-nuts, of which produce alone it exports some 16,000 to 20,000 tons annually, the value of which in Europe is, at 15*l.* per ton, equal to 240,000*l.*

This trade in ground-nuts, which is now extended all along the West Coast of Africa, and which has materially increased the value of the exports of the coast generally, was commenced by the British merchants in the Gambia, who at great expense and risk introduced and fostered its general cultivation at considerable outlay and risk. We may here add, that the extensive culture of the ground-nut along the coast has mainly contributed to the extinction of the African Slave Trade. The bulky nature of this produce has compelled us to erect large and substantial stores at a vast expense, the materials for their erection having had to be imported from Europe, and has also compelled us to invest a large amount of capital in a class of vessels which are suitable for the river trade only.

To carry on this trade with a poor race of people like the native Africans, we have had to establish numerous factories at various points in the river, where we have to keep extensive supplies of assorted British manufactured goods, and food, to make advances from time to time to the farmers, trusting entirely to their good faith and honesty to pay us when their crop is matured. These farmers, we must inform your Lordship, are principally natives from the interior (who, in consequence of there being no roads for the conveyance of such bulky produce), come down to the banks of the river to cultivate, and remain three or four years; at the end of that period they generally return to their own country with their earnings.

These factories in the river are in charge of native traders (our servants)—men without any capital of their own; and the system of the trade is such that they are obliged to keep current accounts with the farmers and others engaged in collecting the produce, running over several years; and we are firmly convinced that we shall lose, not only the amount of the actual debts which may be owing to us at these factories, but even the traders themselves may be dishonest enough to retain our property in their hands, knowing that, in our altered position, the British merchant will not be able long to continue the trade; and we are also convinced that the natives, from their experience of the French rule in the Senegal and Cazamance, will retire from the banks of the river, and it will take years to restore confidence and the trade to its present state.

The result of this state of things will be that our debts will be lost, our property in the river jeopardized, our stores, vessels, and factories will become practically useless, and of little value, and very difficult, if not impossible to realize, as it must not be supposed that the French traders coming to the Gambia will be induced at once to invest large sums of money in the purchase of extensive buildings and vessels which have been with us the growth of years.

We assure your Lordship that the proposed cession to France will, if carried out, force us to quit the Gambia trade, and consequently compel us to sacrifice—

1. Our house property and plant in Bathurst.

2. Our colonial river craft built expressly for this trade.

3. Our river factories and plant.

4. Our debts in the river.

5. Our stock-in-trade; and the last, though perhaps not the least, of our losses will be that we shall be compelled to abandon a business created after years of labour, a large outlay of capital, and patient industry under trials and difficulties of no ordinary nature at a time when we were getting some return for our exertions and capital, and when we anticipated leaving our well established and profitable business to our children and successors.

Your Lordship possibly may know that the forced and sudden winding-up of a large mercantile business in any country is always attended with loss, but that loss is sure to be enhanced tenfold when it is carried on, as ours is, in a barbarous country. Our safety hitherto has laid in keeping up the supplies and maintaining good faith with the natives. We, regarding the amounts thus locked up as so much dormant capital invested in a trade which we had ourselves created, and with which we are well acquainted.

If, therefore, Her Majesty's Government is determined at all risk to carry out the proposed transfer, we ask for a simple act of justice, which is this: that it shall be stipulated in the Treaty (provided the transfer be carried out in opposition to our wishes) that the French Government shall pay us for our property and invested capital, a sum to be agreed upon and paid before the Treaty be executed, in the same way as Her Majesty's Government proposes to secure itself for the value of their property in the said Settlements.

Your Lordship will please bear in mind that this cession if carried out, will be carried out against our wishes, and that you are driving British subjects from a home and business which they have created by their industry, and that the position they will be placed in and the claims consequent thereupon, are not of their own seeking, but forced upon them by the Government of their common country.

In conclusion, allow us to impress upon your Lordship the fact that the Settlements are self-supporting, do not cost the mother-country a shilling, are not in debt, have a surplus invested in New Zealand bonds, and that the inhabitants feel themselves fully competent to manage their own affairs if they are allowed the peaceful control thereof.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS F. QUIN.
THOMAS BROWN.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

No. 54.

No. 54.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. E. Hammond.

ir,

Downing Street, July 22, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you a draft of a despatch which his Lordship proposes, with Earl Granville's concurrence, to address to the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements by to-morrow's mail, relative to the recent negotiations for the transfer to France of the British Settlements on the Gambia; and I am to request that, if Lord Granville concurs in the proposed draft, a communication may be made accordingly to the French Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

The Right Hon. E. Hammond,
&c. &c. &c.

Lord Kimberley's
despatch to Sir A.
Kennedy. No. 6.
July 23, 1870.
page 70.

No. 55.

No. 55.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Messrs. Forster and Smith.

Gentlemen,

Downing Street, July 23, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to state that his Lordship has received a Memorial signed by you in conjunction with other merchants, manufacturers and traders of London, respecting the proposed transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

Lord Kimberley desires me to state, in reply, that, in consequence of the outbreak of war, Her Majesty's Government have suspended for the present the negotiations with the French Government for the cession of the Settlement to France.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Forster and Smith.

(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 56.

No. 56.

Arthur Otway, Esq., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1870.

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to state to you, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, that his Lordship fully concurs in the terms of the letter which it is proposed to address to the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements, relative to the recent negotiations for the transfer to France of the British Settlements on the Gambia.

I am to add that a communication on the subject will be made to the French Government, as suggested in your letter.

I am, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

No. 57.

No. 57.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 6. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 23, 1870.

I HAVE to inform you that, in consequence of the outbreak of war between France and Prussia, Her Majesty's Government think it necessary to postpone proceeding with the intended transfer to France of the British Settlements on the Gambia.

They wish you not the less to proceed to that Colony, to examine into the feelings of the residents, especially the natives, and the obstacles which may present themselves to the transfer when occasion for it shall occur, and to take any steps which appear to you prudent to remove those obstacles.

I enclose for your information a copy of a Memorial presented to me by British merchants trading in the Gambia.

But, having in view the withdrawal of the troops, the recent news from McCarthy's Island, and the objections which exist to the frequent visit of the Settlement by a ship-of-war, you must endeavour to make such arrangements by a temporary increase of the Police force, as will be best calculated to provide for the security of the Settlement. And in order to maintain this force, I should wish you to consider, and report to me, what reductions can be made in the existing expenditure, and particularly in the present Establishments.

I have, &c.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

Memorial.
July 14, 1870,
page 63.

Messrs. Brown and Quin (Memorandum).

THE REPORTED CESSION OF GAMBIA.

ON the debate on Sir John Hay's motion in the House of Commons for papers, 17th July, 1870, Mr. Monsell made certain statements which, not being in our opinion correct, we, the Undersigned, submit, for the information of Members of both Houses of Parliament, the following replies:—

Mr. Monsell's Statements.

The Settlement has been in our possession 280 years, and comprised only thirty-nine males and eight females.

Mr. Monsell, in quoting a letter of Mr. Brown's August, 1859, desired to show a discrepancy between the statement therein contained and Mr. Brown's statement of facts as to the population of these Settlements.

The question of the cession of the Gambia was suggested by the Governor-General, Sir Arthur Kennedy, and his statement of 13th March, 1869, was still more specific, that it would be for the interests of the Colony to cede the Gambia; that the situation of the Settlements rendered it unhealthy for four months in the year.

Replies.

The honourable Member has gone back to the reign of Elizabeth, who, in 1588, granted a patent to some merchants of Exeter to trade there; this was subsequently abolished, and the present Settlement was formed on the Island of St. Mary's in 1816, that is fifty-four years ago instead of 280.

It is clear that Mr. Monsell entirely ignores the existence of the coloured and native population, when he says the Settlements did not contain more than 39 males and 8 females—even for the white population, the last census gives 117 males and 14 females; numbers, however, should not influence the discussion of the principle involved.

The date of the letter is 1869 (not 1859, and if the honourable Member had given the letter *in extenso* no discrepancy would have appeared, because in the letter of 1869 Mr. Brown was describing only the Island of St. Mary's, and the number of its inhabitants; whereas, in the statement of facts quoted by Sir John Hay, the number of inhabitants given comprised those of all the Settlements, viz., Bathurst, British Combo, Fort Bullen, Albreda, and McCarthy's Island.

What can the opinion of Sir Arthur Kennedy be worth? He never spent ten days in the Gambia, never went up the river beyond Bathurst, knows nothing of the trade and resources of the river, or of the different tribes inhabiting the banks of it. Why should not the opinions be taken of such men as Sir Richard Graves McDonnell (now Governor of Hong Kong), who spent over eight years in the Colony, filling respectively the offices of Chief Justice and Governor, thoroughly knew the character of the natives, as well as the resources of the river and the trade thereof; or Sir John Isles Mantell (now one of the Stipendiary Magistrates for Manchester), who for twenty-seven years resided in the Gambia, holding the appointments of Queen's Advocate, and subsequently that of Chief Justice; or Brigadier-General O'Connor, who for over six years was

In the Blue Book published in 1866 or 1867 there was a statement, that between the years 1857 and 1866 the number of births was about 1200, and the number of deaths 2,300.

Sir Arthur Kennedy went on to say that the revenue depended mainly on the export of gold dust (*sic* in Report), meaning probably ground-nuts, which must be precarious and fluctuating

 The deficiency of the revenue in 1869 was 3,667*l.* The value of the imports to the Gambia in 1869 was 94,207*l.*, and of the exports 91,000*l.*, about one-fifth of which came from Great Britain.

So far as regarded the feelings of the native population, Sir Arthur Kennedy had made inquiries on the subject, and was of opinion they would not offer any

Governor of the Gambia, and is now Commander-in-chief in Jamaica; or of Colonel S. J. Hill (now Governor of Newfoundland), who resided for some time at McCarthy's Island and at Bathurst, and subsequently held the appointments of Governor of Cape Coast and of Sierra Leone; or of Daniel Robertson (late Colonial Secretary of the Gambia), who resided there upwards of thirty years and has now retired on his well-earned pension. These gentlemen have all held high official situations, and, from their long residence and local knowledge, are far better able to give an opinion upon the question of the proposed cession than an officer having so little personal experience as Sir Arthur Kennedy.

The Blue Book for 1867 gives the number of births for Bathurst and McCarthy's Island at 118, and the deaths at 66. No register is kept for British Combo, Barra, or Albreda.

Sir Arthur Kennedy is incorrect in so stating. Take the revenue for 1867—the last one published—and it will be seen by the Blue Book, at page 15, that the revenue raised was 21,641*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, of which only 4,783*l.* 6*s.* was on ground-nuts, the balance being from other sources. Of course, ground-nuts like all cereal crops are dependent upon the seasons, the harvests being good or bad, in all countries, in proportion as the weather is favourable or otherwise.

It is notorious to every one connected with the Gambia that 1869 was a very exceptional year, and owing to native wars, famine, cholera, and the early cessation of rain, there was an immense failure of crops. It is not, therefore, fair to form an estimate of the Gambia trade on the result of such an exceptional year. According to the Blue Book for 1867, the total imports to Gambia were 193,420*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, of which the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 104,367*l.* 8*s.*, whilst from France it was only 37,565*l.* 13*s.* The total exports were 214,382*l.* 7*s.*, of which 157,643*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* went to France, not wholly as the proceeds of French trade, but chiefly of English, because Marseilles is a better market for all oleaginous seeds than England. The money for the English portion came to England for the purchase of goods to be again employed in the trade.

The whole of the British population of the Settlement on the Gambia, European as well as native, are strongly opposed to the proposed cession, and expressed

Mr. Monsell's Statements.

serious opposition to the transfer of the Colony to France.

Thatched House Club,
St. James's Street,
July 26, 1870.

Replies.

themselves so to Sir Arthur Kennedy. The aborigines are well known to be against it to a man.

THOMAS BROWN.
THOMAS F. QUIN.

No. 59.

Arthur Olway, Esq., M.P., to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 27, 1870.

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd* and to my reply of the 23rd† instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of the instructions sent to Lord Lyons, with respect to the postponement of the arrangement for the transfer of the Gambia settlements to France, together with a copy of a despatch and its enclosures that have been received from his Excellency containing the reply of the French Government to the communication he made to them in the terms of your letter of the 1st instant, respecting the conditions on which the transfer should be arranged.

I am, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed)

ARTHUR OTWAY.

No. 59.

* Page 69.
† Page 70.

July 20, 1870.
July 21, 1870.

Enclosure 1 in No. 59.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 20, 1870.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 5th instant, upon the subject of the terms of the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France, I have to request that your Excellency will inform the French Government that the pressure of business will make it impossible to introduce a Bill into Parliament this session for the purpose of the transfer.

A despatch containing further explanations upon this subject will shortly be sent to you; but Her Majesty's Government are anxious that the Imperial Government should receive this intimation of their decision in time to save the next mail to the West Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

The Lord Lyons, C.B.,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

GRANVILLE.

&c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 59.

Encl. 2 in No. 59.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

Paris, July 21, 1870.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 5th and 7th July, and to the previous correspondence respecting the exchange of territory between Great Britain and France on the West Coast of Africa, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of a note and Memorandum on this subject, which I received last night from the Duc de Gramont.

Your Lordship will perceive that the French Government raises no objection with respect to the other points stated in the *note verbale* founded on your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, but that it declines to accede to the suggestion that it should defray any slight expenditure by way of compensation or otherwise, which might be required on the occasion of the transfer.

I have received this morning your Lordship's despatch of yesterday, and I have, in consequence, addressed to the Duc de Gramont a note informing him that pressure of business will make it impossible to introduce a Bill into Parliament this session for the purpose of the transfer.

I have, &c.

The Earl Granville,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

LYONS.

Encl. 3 in No. 59.

Enclosure 3 in No. 59.

The Duc de Gramont to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 20 Juillet, 1870.

VOUS avez bien voulu me remettre le 5 de ce mois une note relative au projet d'échange de la Gambie. J'ai l'honneur d'adresser ci-joint à votre Excellence ma réponse à cette communication.

Son Excellence Lord Lyons,
&c. &c. &c.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) GRAMONT.

Encl. 4 in No. 59.

Enclosure 4 in No. 59.

Memorandum.

SON Excellence Lord Lyons a bien voulu remettre, le 5 de ce mois, au Duc de Gramont une note relative au projet de cession de la Gambie à la France en échange de ses droits sur certaines contrées s'étendant au sud de la Rivière Dembie. Il en résulte que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, tout en adhérant aux vues du Gouvernement de l'Empereur sur les conditions auxquelles cet échange pouvait s'effectuer, ne saurait prendre d'engagement définitif sans la sanction du Parlement; et qu'il désire aussi se réserver la faculté de formuler les observations nouvelles qui lui suggéreraient les déclarations de personnes intéressées dans le commerce de sa Colonie. Il en ressort également que la souveraineté sur l'Île de Boulam, et le territoire situé vis-à-vis, ayant été attribuée par la décision des Etats-Unis au Portugal, la possession n'en pourrait pas être transférée à la France.

Le Gouvernement de l'Empereur n'a sur ces différents points aucune objection, mais il ne lui serait pas possible de s'engager à accorder à certains résidents de la Gambie les dédommagements auxquels il est fait allusion dans la communication de M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique. La réalisation du projet d'échange ne doit pas être en effet préjudiciable aux personnes qui sont actuellement fixées dans la Gambie, quelle que soit leur nationalité, et il ne semble pas qu'il puisse y avoir lieu à indemnité.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique peut être certain d'ailleurs que les garanties qu'il désire pouvoir donner aux habitants de la Colonie leur seraient assurées. Leur religion, leurs propriétés, et leurs droits acquis seraient scrupuleusement respectés.

L'attention du Duc de Gramont s'est également portée sur les deux documents confidentiels qui accompagnaient la note de son Excellence Lord Lyons, et il ne peut que le remercier des indications utiles qu'il y a trouvées sur les dispositions des commerçants Européens et indigènes au sujet du projet d'échange. D'après les informations que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur a reçues à cet égard de ses agents à la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, et qui sont très vraisemblablement postérieures à celles parvenues à Londres, il semblerait y avoir chances de faire accepter assez facilement par la population un changement de juridiction.

Le Gouvernement de l'Empereur ne saurait manquer de s'y employer en usant de son influence sur des commerçants Français.

Paris, le 18 Juillet, 1870.

Encl. 5 in No. 59.

Enclosure 5 in No. 59.

Lord Lyons to the Duc de Gramont.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, July 21, 1870.

I HAD last night the honour to receive your Excellency's note of yesterday, enclosing a Memorandum respecting the proposed exchange between Great Britain and France of territories on the West Coast of Africa.

I will, without delay, communicate your Excellency's note and its enclosure to Her Majesty's Government, but in the meantime I think it right to let your Excellency know without delay that I have this morning received instructions to inform the Government of the Emperor, that pressure of business will make it impossible to introduce a Bill into Parliament this Session for the purpose of the transfer of the territory.

Her Majesty's Government promise me further instructions in a short time,

but they think that it may be convenient to your Excellency to receive this intimation in time to save the next mail to the West African Coast.

His Excellency the Duc de Gramont,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure 6 in No. 59.

Encl. 6 in No. 59.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 27, 1870.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th and to your reply of the 21st instant, respecting the proposed transfer of the British Settlements on the Gambia to France, I request that your Excellency will explain to the Imperial Government that, notwithstanding the fact that the pressure of business will prevent the introduction of a Bill into Parliament this Session for carrying out the arrangement, orders have nevertheless been issued to the Governor of Sierra Leone, to proceed to the Gambia to enquire as to the feelings of the residents, especially the natives, and to endeavour, by prudent steps, to remove any opposition to the transfer of sovereignty when occasion for it shall occur; and that, in the meantime, temporary arrangements will be made for carrying on the administration of the affairs of the Settlement.

His Excellency the Lord Lyons.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

No. 60.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
July 27, 1870.

(No. 59. Gambia.)

(Received August 19, 1870.

My Lord,

(Answered, No. 19, August 31, 1870, page 86.)

THERE is a circumstance connected with the proposed transfer of the Gambia which appears to have been overlooked, and to which your Lordship will probably excuse my drawing your attention.

Mr. Thomas Brown, a member of the Legislative Council at the Gambia, in what he terms "a statement of facts," laid before a meeting at Manchester (which I have commented upon in another despatch, No. 58,* by this mail), writes as follows:— * Page 64.

"The natives up the river are much alarmed and incensed even at the proposal to hand over their river to the French; and by accounts just received from Bathurst, information has been received that the natives have threatened to invade McCarthy's Island up the River Gambia, to burn and destroy their factories there, and to carry off the goods of the merchants into the interior before the French get possession."

It appears to me that this statement (if true) furnishes additional reason for Great Britain divesting herself of the responsibility of maintaining order at a point 300 miles from the seat of Government, and where European life has been so lavishly squandered.

Though I am writing without accurate or available records, I believe it is a fact, that after long correspondence with the British merchants then resident at the Gambia, Her Majesty's Government induced that of France to retire from Albreda, a trading post higher up the river than Bathurst, on condition of the British Government undertaking to protect French merchants in the river, and by whom I have shown in previous despatches, the bulk of the trade is at present carried on.

If such an outbreak as that foreshadowed by Mr. Brown, should unfortunately occur, I apprehend that the French merchants would (through their Government) have a right to claim the protection (and possibly indemnity) promised by the British Government, and thus involve Great Britain in another native war, in addition to the many which have already taken place at the Gambia.

I shall make enquiries into the records at the Gambia to inform myself of the details of the cession of Albreda to Great Britain; but fuller information can

doubtless be obtained by an examination of the records at the Colonial Office, as I believe a formal Convention was entered into.

The transfer of Albreda took place subsequent to 1859.

I have, &c,

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief,

The Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 61.

No. 61.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,

July 29, 1870.

(Received August 19, 1870.)

(Answered, No. 20, August 31, 1870, page 87.)

(No. 60. Gambia.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, Gambia, No. 3,* 12th July, 1870, covering the copy of a Memorial from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, against the contemplated transfer of the Gambia to the French Government, together with your Lordship's reply thereto.

Your Lordship requests that I will inform you what truth there is in the allegation that the natives threaten violence.

The best reply which I can make to your Lordship's request is to enclose the copy of a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. W. H. Simpson, the Collector of Customs at Gambia, after a perusal of the despatch now under reply.

Mr. Simpson left Gambia on 26th July, and arrived here, on the 28th, *en route*, to assume the Acting Administratorship of Lagos, and is, under the existing circumstances, the very best authority on the condition of the population on the Gambia River, and in the Settlement itself.

It may not be improper for me to state (in reference to Earl Granville's despatch No. 135,† Gambia, 2nd July, 1870) that I am informed on authority which I consider reliable, that the King of Combo, so far from being opposed to the contemplated transfer, will be glad to see the Settlement occupied by the French.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

28th July, 1870.

* Page 62.

† Page 51.

Encl. in No. 61.

Enclosure in No. 61.

Memorandum by Mr. W. H. Simpson, Collector of Customs at Gambia.

WITH reference to the allegation that the rumoured intention of the transfer had already been the occasion of threats of violence from the natives, I would state from my own personal knowledge that such allegation is wholly untrue.

In the town of Bathurst and the neighbouring districts of Combo, Barra, &c., the most perfect tranquillity prevails, and has prevailed during the whole of my residence at the Gambia (from January till 26th July).

In June last, in consequence of some unfavourable reports from Mr. Tanner, the manager at M'Carthy's Island, I proceeded under the directions of his Excellency Major Bravo in His Imperial Majesty's ship "Espadon," then accidentally in the harbour, to the Island to inquire into the alleged disturbances, and to render such assistance to the trading interests there as might appear desirable.

I found, on my arrival, that, as far as British or trading interests were concerned, there was no cause whatever for any anxiety. Some fighting had occurred between the Mahometan and Pagan tribes in the district, with the usual undecisive results, and partly in consequence of defeat, and partly through the protection afforded by Mr. Tanner to the wife of one of the head men of the Mahometan Chief, threats of violence had been made by him.

I took it upon myself whilst there to visit this Chief and settle the palaver, and I am happy to inform you that since my return Mr. Tanner has officially reported that the utmost tranquillity now prevails, and that all prospects for peace were never more favourable than at present.

I may take it upon me to state that the contemplated transfer of the Settlement

to the French had not the slightest bearing upon the conduct of the natives, to whom, so far as I could ascertain, the news had not then reached.

July 28, 1870.

(Signed)

W. H. SIMPSON,

Collector of Customs, Gambia.

No. 62.

No. 62.

The Bristol Chamber of Commerce to the Earl of Kimberley.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The humble Memorial of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.

Showeth,

THAT your Memorialists have had under their consideration the question of a proposal to cede the Colony of the Gambia to the French Government.

That, without entering upon the various objections to which the proposal has given rise, your Memorialists would respectfully urge that enough information has been elicited to render it highly desirable that no such cession be accomplished until the matter shall have been more fully considered by Parliament and the country.

And your Memorialists therefore pray that your Lordship will be pleased to refrain from taking or sanctioning any proceedings which may commit this country to such proposal until further information has been laid before Parliament and the country, and an opportunity has been afforded for fully discussing the question in all its bearings.

Dated Bristol, July 30, 1870.

Signed on behalf of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce,

(Signed)

RICHARD JEFFERD CROOK, Chairman,
LEOD. BRUTON, Secretary.

No. 63.

No. 63.

Messrs. Chown to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord,

Edmonton, Middlesex, July 30, 1870.

WE see by the reports of the Parliamentary proceedings in the public journals, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to cede to France the British possessions in the Gambia; and we have further learnt, from our brother-merchants, who had the honour of an interview with your Lordship a short time since, that full compensation will be given to those whose interests are in any way affected by the proposed exchange. Without troubling your Lordship with our political or sentimental objections to the scheme, we would wish to show you, as clearly and briefly as possible, how prejudicial such a proceeding would be to us as British merchants: in fact, so much so, that we feel we should be obliged to give up our long-established business at the Gambia, should the place pass into the hands of the French.

Our firm, which was established by the late Mr. Thomas Chown, in the infancy of the Colony, has been continued by his son and grandson (the present writers), and is now one of the largest—if not the largest—in the place. For the purposes of our business we have erected large houses and stores, which we value at 10,000*l.*, and have bought and built various craft for the river trade, now worth about 5,000*l.* We are of course obliged to keep large stocks of goods, and to dispose of these have to establish factories throughout the length of the river. All these, together with the great amounts owing to us by the natives, we consider we should have to sacrifice, should we be ceded to France, for the causes hereinafter mentioned.

The first cargo of ground-nuts (now our chief produce), was shipped from the Gambia about thirty-five years ago, by the late Mr. Thomas Chown; since then, the export of this article has increased from about 100 to 15,000 or 20,000 tons annually.

France being the best market for this particular kind of oil-seed, the merchants have naturally shipped the greater portion of it to that country, but owing to a

differential duty of 20 francs per ton register being imposed on all foreign bottoms entering Marseilles or other French ports, we (the English) were of course debarred from using our own ships for the purpose of transport.

To collect the nuts, which are grown along the banks of the river for about 400 miles, we have to establish factories at different points, which we place in charge of black people, and entrust them with large amounts of goods to barter with the native farmers in exchange for their produce. During the rainy season when the farmers are cultivating their land, and have nothing with which to buy food and other necessities of life, our traders or factors supply them with these things, trusting to their honesty to be paid when they reaped their crops. Thus cultivation is encouraged; but it sometimes occurs that there is a failure of the crop, or perhaps when the nuts are gathered in a heap, ready for threshing or beating, a bush fire takes place, and the seed is consumed, leaving the farmer unable to pay his debt, our traders then are again obliged to supply his wants, and so on from year to year. Thus, large current accounts are made, which in an extensive business like ours amount annually to a heavy sum; but we do not look on these debts as losses, but as a kind of funded or locked-up capital, on which at any rate we obtain a good interest. We fear, however, the coming of the French would render us unable to recover these debts, or any part of them, for the following reasons :—

The French merchants, unlike the English, (notwithstanding Mr. Monsell's assertion that the greater part of the capital is in their hands), cannot afford to risk large amounts of goods up the river in charge of traders, and therefore render no help or support to the native farmers during the rains, but do their trade principally in the vicinity of Bathurst for cash. This year, however, just at the time when the natives were beating their nuts, and were preparing to pay their debts, the three French firms sent up the river large vessels, with white agents on board, carrying with them great amounts of money, and offered to buy up all the nuts they could obtain. Of course, to many of the people this was a temptation they could not resist; and they sold the produce which, in honour and reality belonged to us, and we were left unpaid our debts. And, we think, should the place become French that this would be their regular system of conducting their business, and consequently we should lose many of the sums owing to us.

Again, our knowledge of the French Government in Senegal tells us that we must expect constant fighting between them and the natives, which, by killing off the people and hindering cultivation and trade, would render the recovery of our debts impossible.

It is well known that one of the chief objects of the French in obtaining possession of the Gambia is to enable them more effectually to chastise the various native tribes, which they are always persecuting and warring against. Up to this time these unfortunate people, escaping from Senegal to the banks of the Gambia, have there found peace and refuge; but with the advent of the French, they must once more fight or flee, and our trade would again suffer; and, with the decline of that, our factories would become useless, and our craft, which are specially built for the business, worthless: our houses and stores, which are adapted for the requirements of a large trade, would be but expensive encumbrances, whilst our stocks of goods would lie rotting and unsold.

We may doubtless be told that in the Treaty due provision will be made to protect all rights and privileges as Englishmen, and that we shall be placed on an equal footing with the French, but such were the terms when Goree was handed over to the French years ago, yet British merchants found themselves so restricted and interfered with that, at a great loss to themselves, they were obliged to leave the place.

It is a significant fact that through the whole of the large French possessions in Senegal, there is not, at the present time, a single English firm; and, though the French profess that the blacks have equal advantages with the whites, there is only one native who is enabled to carry on even a small trade for himself; whilst, at the Gambia, under English law, we have numerous intelligent coloured men, who are now pursuing a profitable business on their own accounts.

By the statistics published by the English Government, we find that the exports of English goods to the French possessions in Senegal have dwindled down, from some thousands, to about 300*l.* annually, from which facts one might argue that there is something peculiarly antagonistic in French Colonial Government to Englishmen and to English products.

We do not wish your Lordship to suppose, from the foregoing remarks, that the English merchant, as a rule, is unable to compete successfully with the French when each is placed on an equal footing, but we think that on the Coast we have to contend against unusual disadvantages:—

1. The French have been enabled to ship their own produce direct to their own country in their own vessels.

2. A heavy deferential tonnage due has prevented the English from using ships of their own country, thus giving the French the additional profit of a heavy freight.

3. The French, by introducing the use of cash in obtaining ground-nuts, have severely injured the sale of our goods and merchandize, on which, too, we pay high import duties, thus leaving on us the burden of supplying the revenue of the colony, for the light export charge of 5s. per ton on ground-nuts is hardly felt, and only contributes about one-sixth of the total revenue raised.

In conclusion, we cannot agree with our brother-merchants, Messrs. Brown and Co., in their opinion, that, in the absence of British troops, the Colony could be left safely to itself and self-government. If our Government here refuses us that protection which we thought, as English subjects, we had every right to expect, there is no alternative for us, in respect for the lives and safety of those who, unlike us, are forced to remain at the Gambia, but to give a general assent to the proposed cession; and, placing every faith in your Lordship's and Mr. Monsell's promises that we shall not be sufferers from the transaction in a pecuniary point of view, we beg that your Lordship will stipulate that before the Treaty is signed between the two countries, the French Government shall pay us a certain sum, to be agreed on, for the goodwill of our business, our houses, ships, and other invested capital; and we would suggest that, to ascertain the fair amount to be given to us, arbitrators should be appointed by the French Government and ourselves, with an umpire to be referred to in case of dispute.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. CHOWN.

THOMAS C. CHOWN.

No. 64.

No. 64.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Downing Street, August 1, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo,* enclosing a copy of a despatch and its enclosure from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris regarding the proposed transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

* Page 58.

Earl Granville is probably aware that the reports of the British authorities having quitted, or being about to quit, the Gambia are entirely without foundation.

I am, &c.

Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.,

(Signed)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 65.

No. 65.

Messrs. Forster and Smith to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord,

New City Chambers, August 3, 1870.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Frederic Rogers' letter of the 23rd ultimo* formally informing us that, in consequence of the outbreak of war, Her Majesty's Government have suspended the negotiations with the French Government for the cession of the settlement of Gambia to France.

† Page 70.

Under the circumstances, and in view of the heavy business and cares the war throws on Her Majesty's Government, we presume that we shall act discreetly in at present abstaining from further correspondence on the cession itself; but we respectfully express our hope that the urgent representations already made of the way in which it must affect the interests of those connected with the Gambia will secure for them and for us such notice of the resumption of negotiations as may enable us to put properly before your Lordship the strong reasons that exist against it, and the claims to consideration and protection of those whose interests must suffer so deeply.

Your Lordship will not be unprepared to hear that great injury to the consideration and authority of British merchants in the river, on which the recovery of the large sums they have always outstanding depends, has already been done by what has passed; and that the peace and security of the country will be less secure than ever, seeing that the natives have learnt that this country was prepared altogether to abandon her dominion, and has actually withdrawn all military force from the Settlement; they learning also that while they have to dread the advent of the terrible rule of France, they have yet a period of present immunity. Your Lordship will not fail to perceive how dangerous this position is, how probable is that the turbulent among the native Chiefs will seek to turn to bad account the time.

We therefore earnestly pray your Lordship to instruct Sir Arthur Kennedy to bear in mind the duty of giving protection to the Gambia and of causing it to be visited from time to time by a cruiser, a simple and inexpensive measure, which would serve to satisfy the natives that Her Majesty's Government has not yet withdrawn protection and countenance from its subjects there.

We are, &c.

The Earl of Kimberley,
Colonial Office.

(Signed) FORSTER AND SMITH

No. 66.

No. 66.

R. G. W. Herbert, Esq., to Arthur Otway, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Downing Street, August 4, 1870.

* Page 73.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo* transmitting a copy of the instructions sent to Lord Lyons with respect to the postponement of the arrangement for the transfer of the Gambia to France. In addition to the notification made to the French Government that pressure of business will make it impossible to introduce a Bill into Parliament this Session for the transfer of the Gambia to France, Lord Kimberley would suggest that, to prevent misunderstanding, it would be advisable to inform the French Government confidentially that, whilst France is at war, it will be impossible to renew the negotiations, and that Her Majesty's Government must reserve to themselves the liberty, before the renewal of negotiations, to consider the objections which have been made to the proposed transfer in the settlement and in this country.

I am, &c.

A. Otway, Esq., M.P.,

(Signed) R. G. W. HERBERT.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 67.

No. 67.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 9. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 5, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for any observations which you may have to make, a copy of a statement, drawn up by Messrs. Brown and Quin, with reference to the debate in the House of Commons on the 16th ultimo, regarding the proposed transfer of the Gambia.

I have, &c.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 68.

No. 68.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to R. J. Crook, Esq.

Sir,

Downing Street, August 6, 1870.

† Page 77.

IN reply to the Memorial dated 30th July,† signed by you on behalf of the British Chamber of Commerce, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acquaint you that the negotiations for the cession of the Gambia to the French Government have been suspended.

I am, &c.

R. J. Crook, Esq.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Messrs. Chown.

Gentlemen,

Downing Street, August 8, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo,* representing the position in which you will be placed, as British merchants, if the Settlement of the Gambia is ceded to the French Government.

* Page 77.

To prevent any misunderstanding, Lord Kimberley thinks it right to observe that neither he nor Mr. Monsell, so far as he is aware, made promises that you should not be sufferers from the transaction in a pecuniary point of view, but they stated that any representations from you or other British merchants should have due consideration, and that, as far as possible, your interests should be protected.

His Lordship desires me further to acquaint you that the negotiations with the French Government are suspended, and that whenever they are renewed your statements shall be borne in mind.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

Messrs. Chown.

No. 70.

No. 70.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 10.° Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 8, 1870.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your observations, a copy of a letter from Messrs. Chown, representing the injury which will be inflicted on them, as British merchants, if the Settlement of the Gambia is ceded to the French Government; I also transmit, for your information, a copy of the answer which has been returned to those gentlemen.

July 30, 1870,
page 77.
Colonial Office,
August 8, 1870,
page 81.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 71.

No. 71.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Messrs. Quin and Brown.

Gentlemen,

Downing Street, August 9, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo,† submitting various arguments against the transfer of the Gambia to the French Government.

† Page 67.

His Lordship desires me to refer you to the reply returned on the 23rd ultimo to the Memorial presented by yourselves and two other members of the deputation which had an interview with Lord Kimberley on the 14th ultimo; and I am to add that, if negotiations for the transfer should be renewed, your statement now under acknowledgment will receive due consideration.

As regards your statement that the Settlement is self-supporting and does not cost the mother-country a shilling, Lord Kimberley wishes me to remind you that the Imperial Government have had to pay for many years for the troops stationed in the Settlement an annual sum of about 20,000*l.*, and that, although the troops have recently been withdrawn, it will be necessary to organize an armed Police, the cost of which it will be very difficult for the Colony to meet in the present condition of its revenue.

I am further to observe that there was a Parliamentary grant of 1,500*l.* in 1869, which was applied to meet the deficit in the Colonial revenue of that year, and that, in the current year, a grant of 1,000*l.* has been voted by Parliament towards the expenses of the Colony.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

Messrs. Quin and Brown.

No. 72.

No. 72.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 11. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 9, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of Memorial from certain merchants and others interested in the Settlement of the Gambia regarding the contemplated transfer of the Settlement to the French Government, together with a copy of a letter from Messrs. Quin and Brown, stating their reasons for deprecating the proposed transfer.

I also annex copies of the replies which have been returned to these communications.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 73.

No. 73.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Messrs. Forster and Smith.

Gentlemen,

Downing Street, August 10, 1870.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant,* in reply to that addressed to you by this Department on the 23rd ultimo† in regard to the contemplated cession of the Gambia to the French Government.

His Lordship desires me to state that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements.

Messrs. Forster and Smith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

No. 74.

No. 74.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 12. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 10, 1870.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11‡ of the 9th instant, enclosing a copy of a correspondence with Messrs. Forster and Smith regarding the contemplated cession of the Gambia to the French Government, I transmit to you herewith, for your consideration, a copy of a further letter from that firm.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 75.

No. 75.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 68. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 16, 1870.

(Received September 9, 1870)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch Gambia No. 6,§ 23rd July, 1870, enclosing a Memorial from British merchants trading in the Gambia, and informing me that Her Majesty's Government think it necessary to postpone the intended transfer of that Settlement to France.

I have also to acknowledge your Lordship's instructions conveyed to me in the same despatch.

I am at present in correspondence with the Administrator on the subject of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1871, and will communicate the result with my report, which your Lordship requires on the possible reduction of establishment.

There is nothing new in the Memorial requiring comment. If the "terms and conditions" of transfer affecting the Memorialists are, when known, found to be

Memorial, page 63.
Messrs. Quin and
Brown, July 21,
1870, page 67.
Colonial Office,
July 23, 1870,
page 70.
Colonial Office,
August 9, 1870,
page 81.

* Page 79.

† Page 70.

‡ Above.

favourable to their personal interests. I apprehend that opposition will cease; and think it would be desirable to comply with their wishes in this respect, ere negotiations are resumed.

An apparently large Staff of officers must always be kept up in the West Africa Settlements where many become non effective by sickness; and periodical leave of absence, and change such as the merchant adopt themselves is absolutely necessary to keep up the semblance of efficiency. All the European merchants absent themselves from the Settlement from June till December. There is not a British merchant there at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

the Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 76.

No. 76.

The Earl Granville, K.G., to the Lord Lyons.

My Lord, Foreign Office, August 13, 1870.
WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, respecting the proposed transfer to France of the sovereignty of the Gambia, I request that your Excellency will take a favourable opportunity of informing the Imperial Government confidentially, that whilst France is at war it will be impossible to proceed with negotiations for a cession of territory, and that Her Majesty's Government must reserve to themselves the liberty, before the renewal of negotiations, to consider the objections to the proposed transfer which have been made in the Settlement and in this country.

I desire at the same time to inform your Excellency that the rumours of the British authorities having quitted or being about to quit the Gambia are entirely without foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

His Excellency the Lord Lyons,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 77.

No. 77.

The Lord Lyons to the Earl Granville, K.G.

My Lord, Paris, August 19, 1870.
I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, respecting the proposed exchange between Great Britain and France of territory on the West Coast of Africa.

Not having succeeding in obtaining an interview with the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, I communicated yesterday afternoon the substance of your Lordship's despatch verbally to M. Desprez, the Political Director of the French Foreign Office.

I said to him that I was instructed to inform the Government of the Emperor, confidentially, that it would be impossible to proceed with the negotiation whilst France was at war, and that Her Majesty's Government must reserve to themselves the liberty, before the negotiation was resumed, of considering the objections to the proposed transfer of territory which had been made on the spot as well as in England.

M. Desprez answered that he would not fail to report to the Minister for Foreign Affairs exactly what I had said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 78.

No. 78.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 23, 1870.

My Lord, (Received September 9, 1870.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 9, 5th August, 1870,* enclosing a statement drawn up by Messrs. Brown and M 2

Quin, with reference to a debate in the House of Commons on the subject of the Gambia.

Though want of time precludes me from offering the observations which your Lordship invites on the statement of Messrs. Brown and Quin by the present opportunity. I think it well at once to correct some errors into which these gentlemen have fallen.

Mr. Monsell's statement that the Settlement did not contain more than 39 males (white), and 8 females, is controverted by Messrs. Brown and Quin, who fall back upon "the last census" (the date of which I am ignorant), and assert that there were at that period 117 males (white), and 14 females.

Mr. Monsell obviously spoke of the present or the period of 1869; and has, I believe (from reliable information before me) overstated the numbers. The number of European males resident at any time during 1869, did not, I am informed, exceed 23, and the number actually resident while I write (from the Administrator inclusive) does not exceed 15.

I inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Colonel Anton, the Administrator directing him to inform your Lordship on this subject.

The whole list of those persons purporting to sign the petition on which I have before remarked, does not contain the name of a single European.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 90, August 7,
1870.

Encl. in No. 78.

Enclosure in No. 78.

Sir A. Kennedy to Lieutenant-Colonel Anton.

(No. 90. Gambia.)

Sir,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

August 20, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will ascertain the actual number of European born persons now in actual residence at Bathurst or within British territory.

The Return should be made out in a Tabular form, showing the following particulars:—Name, Nation, Status, or Calling.

I should also desire to have a nominal Return of all public officers, showing how many are Europeans, of mixed race, or pure Africans.

As I apprehend there will be little delay in procuring this information, I should be glad if you could transmit a duplicate copy direct to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by this mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

His Excellency the Acting Administrator,
Gambia.

No. 79.

No. 79.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 70. Gambia.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone,

August 26, 1870.

(Received September 21, 1870.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 9,* 5th August, 1870, transmitting the copy of a statement drawn up by Messrs. Brown and Quin, with reference to a debate in the House of Commons on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Gambia, and inviting my observations thereon.

The statement begins with a correction of chronology. It is, I apprehend, unimportant for the purposes of this discussion whether the Settlement has been 50 or 250 years a British settlement. The question is, whether it be now or in prospect worth retaining, and whether it is incumbent on Great Britain to retain it.

have on former occasions expressed my opinion upon these points, and adduced facts on which it was founded.

Mr. Monsell is accused of "entirely ignoring the existence of the coloured and native population."

I have before shown (what Messrs. Brown and Quin do not venture to deny) that the majority of the so-called native population are migratory and non-English-speaking, and are not, in any sense, British subjects, and cannot be legally dealt with as such.

Messrs. Brown and Quin controvert Mr. Monsell's statement that there were (at the time he spoke) but 39 European males, and 8 females in the Settlement, alleging that "the last census" gives 117 males and 14 females. It may be true that it appears in "the last census" (possibly a misprint for century), but it is wholly untrue of the present time.

According to the best and most reliable information I can obtain, the number of European males (French included) did not at any time in 1869 exceed 25, many of whom were hired clerks, and on the present date they do not, I believe, (including the Administrator and public officers) exceed 12.

Mr. Brown has written a great many letters containing very remarkable statements, but I am unacquainted with the contents of the particular letter of 1859, or 1869, to which reference is made.

The "principle" for which Mr. Brown contends, was not acted upon when he advocated the transfer of Albreda from France to England in 1857.

Messrs. Brown and Quin ask, "What can be the opinion of Sir Arthur Kennedy as to the worth?" This is a question altogether for the consideration of your Lordship.

I shall only remark that it requires no long residence or large grasp of intellect to master the extent of trade, resources, and future prospects of the country. The whole value of imports and exports do not equal the amount taken over the counter of a haberdasher's shop in the London season. I don't think that an acquaintance with the routine details of a small counting-house at the Gambia maintained for the barter of rum, trade muskets and dry goods in exchange for round-nuts, would be likely to enlarge my information.

Though I must suffer in comparison with any of the able men with whom Messrs. Brown and Quin bring me into unfavourable contrast,—I am still of opinion that I do and can understand "the Gambia question" as well as Messrs. Brown and Quin, though I certainly cannot do multiplication of imports, exports, and population equally well.

My fault, I fear, lies in my knowing too much about it.

It is unhappily notorious that for four months of the year Bathurst is unfit for the residence of any European, a rule upon which Messrs. Brown and Quin act, and always absent themselves during the unhealthy season. The mortality even among natives during that period is very large.

I am not conscious of having stated that the revenue mainly depended on the export of "gold dust." It is the only dust of which there is not a plenty at certain seasons.

Messrs. Brown and Quin admit that the year 1869 was characterized by native wars, famine, and pestilence, the result of the two former. The records of the Gambia unhappily show that this is no uncommon year in those respects. The amount of military expenditure incurred under several of the able Governors enumerated, to quell "native wars," has been enormous, and will again recur if Great Britain continues to be responsible for the protection of life and maintenance of peace in that Settlement. I believe that at no very remote period the aid of French troops was required in addition to our own to save the Settlement from the outside barbarians—certainly within the recollection of Messrs. Brown and Quin.

Messrs. Brown and Quin do not venture to impugn the correctness of the figures I have given of imports and exports in 1869, namely, imports, 94,000*l.*; exports, 1,000*l.*

They assert that the imports in 1867 amounted to 193,420*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; and that the exports of the same year amounted to 214,32*l.* If this be true, a comparison between the two years will show the enormous decrease of business, and failure of resources, more conclusively than any argument of mine.

I have stated, and still believe, that the native population will offer no serious opposition to the transfer of the Settlement to France.

It is remarkable that Messrs. Brown and Quin, while affording so much information respecting the Gambia Settlement, omit to notice the frequently

recurring native wars, which forms one of the strongest reasons for transferring it to a military Power.

A reference to the war services of Major-General L. S. O'Connor (as shown in "Hart's Annual Army List") details a serious war and loss of life in 1853. Another war occurred in 1855, in which 20 men were killed, and 53 wounded, of a total force of 240, "inflicting a loss of 500 of the enemy killed and wounded."

On reference to Colonel d'Arcy's services (in the Colonial Office List), it appears there was another and similar war in 1861, when "the territory of the Settlement was invaded with fire and sword by a fanatical sect of Mahomedan negroes;" on which occasion there was "a sanguinary engagement" and "great slaughter,"—2 European officers and 300 natives being among the killed.

Again, there was another war in 1864, when Lieutenant-Colonel Harley (see "Hart's Army List") commanded; and peace made "after two years of war and bloodshed."

In the war of 1853, the Governor was obliged to ask for, and obtained, the aid of French troops from Senegal; and again, in the war of 1861, the Governor was obliged to make a similar application, and was aided by a battery of French artillery, without whose assistance the "factories" of Messrs. Brown and Quin would probably have ceased to exist. It would, therefore, appear that the French "Protectorate" of the Gambia is nothing new; and I do not observe that Messrs. Brown and Quin express any gratitude for the services thus rendered to them by the nation, against whose Protectorate they now so vigorously object.

I am of opinion that wars, such as have been, will again recur at intervals, as the causes which provoked them still remain; and it is obvious, judging from the past, that the occupation of Bathurst and McCarthy's Island (a most pestilential station) by troops will not prevent them.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 80.

No. 80.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 18. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 30, 1870.

IN your despatch No. 58* of the 20th ultimo, in which you comment on the statement in regard to the Gambia, which was recently made by Mr. Brown at a special meeting of the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, there are two paragraphs which appear to contain clerical errors.

As your despatch will be printed for Parliament, with other correspondence on the subject of the contemplated transfer, I think it right that you should have the opportunity of correcting the errors, if they are such; and I accordingly enclose copies of the paragraphs referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

KIMBERLEY.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 81.

No. 81.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 19. Gambia.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 31, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 59* of the 27th ultimo calling attention to the statement recently made by Mr. Thomas Brown, of the Gambia, at a special meeting of the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, that the natives up the River Gambia have threatened to invade McCarthy's Island, to burn and destroy the factories there, and to carry off the goods of the merchants into the interior before the French get possession.

In the event of such an outbreak, the French merchants would have no right to claim the protection of the British Government, or indemnity for losses which they might sustain.

Copies of Nos. 3
and 10, as written
in Governor's
despatch.

* Page 64.

* Page 75.

The 4th Article of the Convention concluded on the 7th March, 1857, between Her Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, relative to Portendie and Albreda, provides that the French subjects already settled at Albreda shall be protected and treated in all respects in the same manner as all other French subjects in the possessions of Her Britannic Majesty; and the 3rd Article confines the residence of other French subjects to the town of Bathurst and to such other trading station or stations as may be hereafter appointed by the Queen in Council.

The French merchants would, therefore, only have the same protection in the river trade as British merchants, which would not entitle them to indemnity for losses sustained through native wars, since the British merchants have been frequently warned that, if they trade in places far removed from the seat of Government, they do so at their own risk.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **KIMBERLEY.**

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 82.

No. 82.

H. T. Holland, Esq., to Right Hon. E. Hammond.

Sir, Downing Street, August 31, 1870.
I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, a copy of a correspondence with the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements in regard to the amount of protection which French merchants at the Gambia can expect from the British Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) **H. T. HOLLAND.**

The Right Hon. E. Hammond,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor, No. 59,
July 27, 1870.
page 75.
Secretary of State,
No. 19, August 31,
1870, page 86.

No. 83.

No. 83.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

(No. 20. Gambia.)

Sir, Downing Street, August 31, 1870.
IN your despatch No. 60* of the 29th ultimo you state that you are informed, on authority which you consider reliable, that the King of Combo, so far from being opposed to the contemplated transfer of the Gambia, will be glad to see the Settlement occupied by the French.

I have to request that you will endeavour to ascertain positively what the feelings of the King are on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **KIMBERLEY.**

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 84.

No. 84.

The Acting Administrator to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 3. Gambia.)

Government House, September 9, 1870.

My Lord,

(Received September 28, 1870.)

AGREEABLY to instructions received from his Excellency the Governor-in-chief of the West Africa Settlements, on the subject of the Europeans, &c., resident at the Gambia, I have the honour to transmit herewith the under-mentioned Returns, for the information of your Lordship, viz.:—

No. 1. Showing the actual number of European-born persons now in actual residence at Bathurst, or within British territory, with their names, families, and calling.

No. 2. Showing the names of the public officers, and whether European, mixed race, or pure Africans.

The Right Hon the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed)

I have, &c.
HENRY ANTON,
Acting Administrator.

Encl. 1 in No. 84.

Enclosure 1 in No. 84.

(1).—RETURN showing the Number of European-born Persons now in actual Residence at Bathurst or within British Territory.

Name.	Nationality.	Status.
Anton, Henry	English	Administrator.
Augustin	French	Sister of Mercy.
Barrere, Victor	Ditto	Merchant.
Boreham, Walter	English	Manager of Barra.
Bowman, P. A.	Swede	Shopkeeper.
Blaine, Antoine	French	Consul of France.
Brooke, John A.	English	Clerk.
Brooke, James A.	Ditto	Ditto.
Catherine	French	Sister of Mercy.
Chapman, John	English	Colonial Dispenser.
Cooper, H. T. M.	Ditto	Collector and Treasurer.
Cros, Leon	French	Clerk.
Cros, Felin	Ditto	Ditto.
Dangareil, Jean	Ditto	Ditto.
Dictoire	Ditto	Sister of Mercy.
Ely, Alfred W.	English	Clerk.
Flynn, Edward	French	Brother, Roman Catholic.
Helm, Henrick	Ditto	Agent.
Henderson, Chas. J.	English	Out of employment.
Higgins, Sidney, H.	Ditto	Shopkeeper.
Hill, Abraham	Ditto	Clerk.
Hirt, Auguste	Swiss	Agent.
Hutton, T. C.	English	Ditto.
Jarquier, Ami	French	Clerk.
Jouga, William	Ditto	Priest, Roman Catholic.
Knowles, Edward	English	Clerk.
Louis, Walter	French	Priest, Roman Catholic.
Marsdon, J. N.	English	Her Majesty's Controller.
Marsdon, W. J.	Ditto	Agent.
Marsdon, Mrs.	Ditto	Lady.
Melton, William	Ditto	Agent.
Miller, George	Ditto	Clerk.
Mourlau, Adrien	French	Ditto.
Odile	Ditto	Sister of Mercy.
Patton, Russel F. H. M.	English	Clerk.
Quilter, Henry J.	Ditto	Wesleyan Missionary.
Regis	French	Sister of Mercy.
Robinson, William	English	Clerk.
Tanner, Benjamin	Ditto	Manager of M'Carthy's Island.
Vermineck, Casimer	French	Clerk.
Walcott, Mrs.	English	Wife of Mr. Walcott, Advocate.
Yates, James	Ditto	Trader.

RECAPITULATION.

Bathurst .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	39
British Combo .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	Nil
Barra .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1
M'Carthy's Island .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2
Total .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	42

(Signed)

HENRY ANTON,
Acting Administrator.

Bathurst, Gambia, September 9, 1870.

Enclosure 2 in No. 84.

Encl. 2 in No. 84.

1).—NOMINAL RETURN of all Public Officers, showing how many are Europeans, of Mixed Race, or Pure Africans.

Name.	Office.
EUROPEANS.	
Anton, Henry	Administrator.
Boreham, Walter	Manager of Barra.
Chapman, John	Colonial Dispenser.
Cooper, H. T. M.	Collector and Treasurer.
Fowler, Henry	First Writer and Clerk of Council.
Higgins, Sidney H.	High Sheriff.
Marsdon, J. N.	Superintendent of Police, and Acting Colonial Engineer.
Tanner, Benjamin	Manager of McCarthy's Island.
Jackson, Thomas W.*	Chief Magistrate.
MIXED.	
Hanson, Bernard	Landing Waiter and Locker.
Hook, Charles M.	Clerk of the Courts, &c.
Jones, Charles B.	Collector of palm wine duty.
Stubbs, Charles F.	Chief Clerk of Customs.
PURE AFRICANS.	
Campbell, John B.	Goalier.
Case, Samuel H. A.	Copying Clerk to Administrator.
Ease, William A. T.	Beadle of Court.
Johnson Thomas	Cashier in the Treasury and Postmaster.
Llyon, Philip C.	Clerk and Foreman to Colonial Engineer.
Macauley, Chas. W.	Landing Waiter.
Metzger, Edward	Colonial Printer.
Nicol, George	Colonial Chaplain.
Oliver, James B.	Clerk of Market.
Smith, E. A. M.	Manager of Combo.
Spilsbury, Thomas H.	Colonial Surgeon.

* White, but born in Jamaica.

RECAPITULATION.

Europeans	9
Mixed	4
Pure Africans	13
Total	26

(Signed)

HENRY ANTON,
Acting Administrator.

Bathurst, Gambia, September 9, 1870.

No. 85.

No. 85.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
September 20, 1870.

(No. 82. Gambia.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch Gambia No. 10* of August 8, 1870, enclosing a letter from Messrs. Chown, representing the jury which will be inflicted on them, as British merchants, if the Settlement of the Gambia is ceded to the French Government.

I think the most convenient mode of dealing with this subject will be that of turning a copy of Messrs. Chown's letter, with my comments and observations on the opposite page, which I have now the honour to submit for your Lordship's consideration.

I have little to add in the way of general observations. It is obvious that the alleged "numerous class of highly prosperous traders" in the Gambia must make their profits on the value of imports and exports; and these, for the year 1869, amounted to 91,000*l*. and 91,000*l*. respectively. Whence, then, can the alleged "large stock" of goods trusted in the river be obtained out of a total import of

94,000*l.* and that divided between six firms and "numerous and prosperous small native traders?"

It is difficult, if not impossible, to protect the ground-nuts of the merchants for 400 miles into the interior, among turbulent uncertain tempered savages, who cut off the heads of the merchant's messengers (see Admiral Patey's report in *Blue Book* for 1868).

The difficulties and perils of trade so well depicted by Messrs. Chown show the measure of responsibility incurred in the government of the *Gambia Settlement*.

I apprehend that the Government would not be justified in attempting to force a trade of barter against one of cash payments, which latter the French carry on at Bathurst without peril or loss, while the British traders send native agents wandering into the interior in search of greater gains by a system of barter.

I would beg to draw your Lordship's attention to Admiral Patey's *Blue Book Report* 1868, paragraphs 3, 16, 27.

I submit a statement of the imports and exports of the three outlying Settlements for the years 1868 and 1869, which does not favour Messrs. Chown's theory of the prosperous trade of the *Gambia Settlement* as compared with the others:—

LAGOS.

			Imports.	Exports.
			£	£
1868	..	..	340,815	517,253
869	..	..	416,869	669,455

GOLD COAST.

			Imports.	Exports.
			£	£
1868	..	..	140,226	148,909
1869	..	..	213,491	281,913

GAMBIA.

			Imports.	Exports.
			£	£
1868	..	..	144,524	187,357
1869	..	..	94,000	91,000

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 85.

Messrs. Chown to the Earl of Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

Edmonton, Middlesex,

My Lord, July 30, 1870.

WE see by the Reports of the Parliamentary proceedings in the public journals that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to cede to France the British possessions on the *Gambia*; and we have further learnt from our brother merchants who had the honour of an interview with your Lordship a short time since that full compensation will be given to those whose interests

I have no knowledge of any promise "that full compensation will be given to those whose interests are in any way affected by the proposed exchange."

Messrs. Chown to the Earl of Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

are in any way affected by the proposed exchange. Without troubling your Lordship with our political or sentimental objections to the scheme, we would wish to show you as clearly and briefly as possible how prejudicial such a proceeding would be to us as British merchants, in fact, so much so, that we feel we should be obliged to give up our long-established business at the Gambia, should the place pass into the hands of the French.

Our firm, which was established by the late Mr. Thomas Chown in the infancy of the Colony has been continued by his son and grandson (the present writers), and is now one of the largest, if not the largest in the place; for the purposes of our own business we have erected large houses and stores which we value at 10,000*l.*, and have bought and built various craft for the river trade, now worth about 5,000*l.*; we are, of course, obliged to keep large stocks of goods, and, to dispose of these, have to establish factories throughout the length of river; all these, together with the great amounts owing to us by the natives, we consider we shall have to sacrifice, should we be ceded to France, for the causes hereinafter mentioned.

The first cargo of ground-nuts (now own chief produce) was shipped from the Gambia about thirty-five years ago by the late Mr. Thomas Chown; since then the export of this article has increased from about 100 to 15,000 to 20,000 tons annually.

France being the best market for this particular kind of oil-seed the merchants have naturally shipped the greater portion of it to that country; but owing to a differential duty of 20 francs per ton register being imposed on all foreign bottoms entering Marseilles or other French ports, we (the English) were, of course, debarred from using our own ships for the purpose of transport.

To collect the nuts, which are grown along the banks of the river for about 400 miles, we have to establish factories at different points, which we place in charge of black people, and intrust them with a large amount of goods to barter with the native farmers in exchange for their produce. During the rainy season, when the farmers are cultivating their lands, and have nothing left with which to buy food and other necessities of life, our traders or factors supply them with these things, trusting to their honesty to be paid when they reaped their crops.

There has been no new building executed within the last ten years by any British merchant.

The Colonial Surveyor (a very competent judge) informs me that the existing buildings are worth only one-third of the original cost, whatever that may have been, and that a house with accommodation for carrying on a large business can now be purchased for 800*l.* to 1,000*l.* This class of property has so steadily and largely depreciated of late years that the former residence of Judge Mantell was sold by auction a few weeks since, and realized only 56*l.*

The "river craft" consist of vessels from 70 tons burthen down to canoes, their value from 1*l.* to 10*l.* per ton.

The statement regarding export of ground-nuts simply goes to prove that which I have alleged, that the principal trade is with France.

The merchants make advances of goods to their traders or buyers at about 50 per cent. on invoice prices, and the produce received from the grower in return is usually measured by a measure 40 per cent. larger than the Imperial.

They often incur bad debts and losses, while the French escape these by buying for cash.

Thus cultivation is encouraged; but it sometimes occurs that there is a failure of crops, or, perhaps, when the nuts are gathered in a heap ready for threshing or beating, a bush fire takes place and the seed is consumed, leaving the farmer unable to pay his debt; our traders then are again obliged to supply his wants, and so on from year to year; thus large current accounts are made which, in an extensive business like ours, amount annually to a heavy sum; but we do not look on these debts as losses, but a kind of funded or locked-up capital, on which, at any rate, we obtain a good interest; we fear, however, the coming of the French would render us unable to recover these debts, or any part of them, for the following reasons:—

The French merchants, unlike the English (notwithstanding Mr. Monsell's assertion that the greater part of the capital is in their hands), cannot afford to risk large amounts of goods up the river in charge of traders, and, therefore, render no help or support to the native farmers during the "rains," but do their trade principally in the vicinity of Bathurst for cash; this year, however, just at the time when the natives were beating their nuts and were preparing to pay their debts, the three French firms sent up the river large vessels with white agents on board, carrying with them great amounts of money, and offered to buy up all the nuts they could obtain; of course, to many of the people this was a temptation they could not resist, and they sold the produce which, in honour and reality, belonged to us, and we were left unpaid our debts; and we think, should the place become French, that this would be their regular system of conducting their business, and consequently we should lose many of the sums owing to us.

Again, our knowledge of the French Government in Senegal tells us that we must expect constant fighting between them and the natives, which, by killing off the people, and hindering cultivation and trade, would render the recovery of our debts impossible. It is well known that one of the chief objects of the French in obtaining possession of Gambia is to enable them more effectually to chastise the various native tribes, which they are always persecuting and warring against. Up to this time these unfortunate people escaping from Senegal to the banks of the Gambia have there found peace and refuge, but with the advent of the French they must once more fight or flee, and

Surely the system of business depicted must be vicious and hazardous, and must finally succumb before the French cash system described.

French occupation of Gambia would afford the only prospect of permanent peace, and the only certainty against future collision.

Messrs. Chown to the Earl of Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

our trade would again suffer; and with the decline of that our factories would become useless, and our craft—which are specially built for the business—worthless; our houses and stores—which are adapted for the requirements of a large trade—would be but expensive encumbrances, whilst our stocks of goods would lie rotting and unsold.

We may, doubtless, be told that in the treaty due provision will be made to protect all our rights and privileges as Englishmen, and that we shall be placed on an equal footing with the French; but such were the terms when Goree was handed over to the French, years ago, yet British merchants found themselves so restricted and interfered with that, at a great loss to themselves, they were obliged to leave the place.

It is a significant fact that through the whole of the large French possessions in Senegal there is not at the present time a single English firm; and though the French profess that the blacks have an equal advantage with the whites, there is only one native who is enabled to carry on even a small trade for himself; whilst at the Gambia, under English law, we have numerous intelligent coloured men, who are now pursuing a profitable business on their own accounts. By the statistics published by the English Government, we find that the exports of English goods to the French possessions in Senegal have dwindled down from some thousands to about 300*l.* annually, from which facts one might argue that there is something peculiarly antagonistic in French Colonial Government to English men and English products.

We do not wish your Lordship to suppose from the foregoing remarks that the English merchant as a rule is unable to compete successfully with the French when each is placed on an equal footing, but we think that on the coast we have to contend against unusual disadvantages.

Firstly. The French have been enabled to ship their own produce direct to their own country in their own vessels.

Secondly. A heavy deferential tonnage-due has prevented the English from using ships of their own country, thus giving the French the additional profit of a heavy freight.

Thirdly. The French, by introducing the use of cash in obtaining ground-nuts, have severely injured the sale of our goods and merchandize, on which, too, we pay high import duties, thus leaving

The prospect depicted here is likely to be soon realized, hence my recommendation to transfer the Settlement to France.

There are no "English firms," for the simple reason that the trade in ground-nuts is almost exclusively French. There is little or no ground-nut trade from Senegal.

The natives are rapidly learning the relative values of cash and the very inferior goods imported from Great Britain for the purpose of barter, and naturally prefer the former. It is not difficult to foresee the end of the "hitherto prosperous trade" in the Gambia.

on us the burden of supplying the revenue of the Colony, for the light export charge of 5s. per ton on ground-nuts is hardly felt, and only contributes about one-sixth of the total revenue raised.

In conclusion, we cannot agree with our brother merchants, Messrs. Brown and Quin, in their opinion, that in the absence of British troops the Colony could be left safely to itself and self-government. If our Government here refuses us that protection which we thought, as English subjects, we had every right to expect, there is no alternative for us, in respect for the lives and safety of those who, unlike us, are forced to remain at the Gambia, but to give a general assent to the proposed cession; and placing every faith in your Lordship's and Mr. Monsell's promises that we shall not be sufferers from the transaction in a pecuniary point of view, we beg that your Lordship will stipulate that before the Treaty is signed between the two countries the French Government shall pay us a certain sum, to be agreed on for the goodwill of our business, our houses, ships, and other invested capital; and we would suggest that, to ascertain the fair amount to be given to us, arbitrators should be appointed by the French Government and ourselves, with an umpire to be referred to in cases of dispute.

We have &c.

(Signed) THOS. CHOWN.
THOMAS C. CHOWN.

The Right Hon.

Earl Kimberley,

&c. &c. &c.

I have no difficulty in agreeing with Messrs. Chown's "conclusion." The Settlement of the Gambia cannot be safely left to itself, and "self-government" in a community where the principal portion of the population cannot read or write, and where the influence for native purposes is more influential than Messrs. Chown, is an obvious absurdity.

The object of Messrs. Chown's letter may be easily summarized, namely, to place before Her Majesty's Government an exorbitant estimate for the value of their property, and to obtain payment for it on that scale; and in addition to this, that the "French Government shall pay a sum, to be agreed upon, for the goodwill" of Messrs. Chown's business, the value of which is, I fear, rapidly declining.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief

No. 86.

No. 86.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., K.C.M.G., to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Sir,

Downing Street, September 20, 1870.

*Page 70.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd July* expressing Earl Granville's concurrence in a despatch which the Earl of Kimberley proposed to address to the Governor-in-chief of the West African Settlements on the subject of the recent negotiations for the transfer of the Gambia to France, I am directed by your Lordship to transmit to you, for Lord Granville's information, a copy of a despatch which has been received from Sir. A. E. Kennedy in reply to the above.

I am, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 68, August 16,
1870. page 82.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
September 23, 1870.

(Received October 17, 1870.)

No. 83. Gambia.)

Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 18 (Gambia), August 30, 1870, drawing my attention to apparent errors in paragraphs No. 3 and 10 of my despatch No. 58,† of the 20th July, 1870.

* Page 86

† Page 64

My meaning might doubtless have been better expressed.

With regard to paragraph No. 3 of that despatch, I intended to convey that the actual number of British merchants amounted to four, and that one of them had left the Settlement.

With regard to paragraph 10, it applied to Mr. Brown's statement that "an unnecessarily large staff of civil officers appointed by the Crown is maintained contrary to the wishes of the Colony;" and, in reference thereto, I desired to express my opinion that the cost of the Government was disproportionate to the resources of the Settlement, but necessarily so, by reason of the exceptional requirements of the Settlement.

Mr. Brown and the "principal merchants" addressed a letter to Earl Granville under date August 13, 1869, wherein I find the following passage:—

"It is scarcely credible that for this small trading community (namely, five English and four French mercantile establishments, with some seven or eight European and native importers of small value), on a land-bank three and a-half miles in length, and one mile broad (the half of which is an uninhabitable swamp), and a population of about 4,000, of whom about 50 only are Europeans, it should be necessary to support a staff of civil officers whose pay and allowance, according to official estimates for the current year (1869), are:—

	£	s.	d.
"Fixed salaries	9,624	14	6
Temporary and provisional	145	13	0
Allowances	368	7	6
	10,138	15	0"

It is difficult to dissent from this opinion unaccompanied by the explanation that the British merchants expect to have their ground-nuts protected for a distance of 400 miles into the interior, and outposts maintained.

In the same letter to Earl Granville, dated August 13, 1869, the principal merchants further state that "40,000*l.* a year spent for the purpose of a Colony of five English and four French merchants, and some 4,000 inhabitants, appears to us to be an unnecessary waste of Imperial and Colonial funds."

Concurring entirely in this view, I recommend the withdrawal of the troops, which has effected a saving to the Imperial Government of about 30,000*l.* per annum, and I am now, under your Lordship's instructions, considering the more difficult question how the Colonial expenditure can be diminished, having due regard to safety and efficiency.

While on the subject of my despatch No. 58 of July 20, 1870, I wish to add that my statement in paragraph No. 8 that 140,000*l.*, given as the annual value of imports, was a gross exaggeration, was intended to apply to the year 1869, being the year in which the discussion commenced, and in which year the value of imports reached 94,000*l.* only.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 88.

No. 88.

*Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.*Government House, Sierra Leone,
September 23, 1870.

(Received October 17, 1870.)

(No. 84. Gambia.)

My Lord,

* Page 82.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 12,* 10th August, 1870, enclosing the copy of a correspondence with Messrs. Foster and Smith, regarding the contemplated cession of the Gambia to the French Government.

There is little in the letter of Messrs. Foster and Smith for me to remark upon.

I do not believe that the proposed cession of the Settlement has in any way affected the security of property in the river, which has always been precarious, and ever will be, without the frequent visits of a ship of war.

This belief and consideration was one of many reasons which in my opinion rendered the cession of the Settlement necessary.

The trade and property up the River Gambia never did and never will, in my opinion, justify the cost to Great Britain for protecting it.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 89.

No. 89.

*Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.*Government House, Sierra Leone,
September 24, 1870.

(Received October 17, 1870.)

(No. 85. Gambia.)

My Lord,

* Page 82.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch (Gambia) No. 11,* 9th August, 1870, transmitting the copy of a Memorial from certain merchants and others interested in the Settlement at the Gambia, regarding the contemplated transfer of the Settlement to the French Government, together with the copy of a letter from Messrs. Quin and Brown, stating their reason for deprecating the proposed transfer.

I now transmit copies of these documents, with my remarks thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 89.

Encl. 1 in No. 89.

*Memorial from Merchants, &c., interested in the African Trade.**Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.*

To the Right Honourable the Earl Kimberley, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Undersigned merchants, manufacturers, and traders of London interested in the African trade.

Showeth.

THAT your Memorialists have learnt with surprise and regret that negotiations are pending for the cession to France of the Settlements on the River Gambia; and their alarm at what must

To ascertain "the terms and conditions" of the contemplated cession appears to be the main object of this Memorial.

in any case be the cause of great loss to many of them is increased by the fact that its terms and conditions are wholly unknown to the merchants who are most deeply interested, as having large property in the Settlements.

Your Memorialists humbly submits to your Lordship the propriety of affording them information as to the terms and conditions of this cession, as from their local knowledge and experience, they, having all been engaged in the trade, and several of them many years resident in the Colony, must be able to offer many suggestions for your Lordship's consideration.

Your Memorialists take leave to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Settlements on the Gambia involve no pecuniary charge whatever upon the mother country, the troops and all Parliamentary aid having been withdrawn; the Settlements raise a revenue of their own of 17,000*l.* per annum, 10,897*l.* of which is expended in maintaining an unnecessarily large staff of civil officers appointed by the Crown.

Your Memorialists respectfully contend that if Imperial interests require that the Settlements on the Gambia should be ceded to France, and that private interests must yield to the public good, it will yet be unjust to make the cession at the pecuniary loss of the British merchants residing and carrying on business there and in this country.

Your Memorialists, therefore, pray your Lordship not to proceed with the negotiations for the cession of the Gambia to France, but that if the urgency of the French Government, or the wish to obtain advantages for this country elsewhere in exchange for the Gambia, induces your Lordship to continue them, care may be taken to provide compensation for the heavy loss that must inevitably befall the merchants; not merely in the loss of the business and position acquired by years of labour, but by the sacrifice of a great part of the capital locked up in the trade, and which it will be impossible to withdraw or to make available in Gambia as a French possession.

(Signed)

FORSTER and SMITH.
BANNER BROTHERS and Co.
(And 40 others.)

Though the occupation of the Settlement does not involve the Imperial Government in any immediate pecuniary charge, I think it most improbable, looking at the present and the past history of the Settlement, that this can be of long continuance.

I regard the responsibility incurred by Her Majesty's Government in maintaining an unprofitable Settlement in the midst of a turbulent and hostile people as a much more serious matter than a mere pecuniary charge which is easily measured.

I have never seen any statement of the "heavy loss which must inevitably befall the merchants" consequent upon transfer of the Settlement, and I do not believe that such would be the case; as I presume the "conditions" would include protection for the life and property of any British subjects resident in, or trading with the Settlement.

The "capital locked up" alluded to throughout this discussion, simply means "bad debts" which have recently become worse, from the introduction of a system of cash purchase by the French traders, in opposition to the credit and barter system for many years carried on by British traders.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

Enclosure 2 in No. 89.

*Messrs. Quin and Brown to the Earl of
Kimberley.*

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

44, Ludgate Hill, London,

My Lord, July 21, 1870.

YOUR Lordship having informed us at our interview with you that Her Majesty's Government had decided to transfer the Settlements on the River Gambia to France, notwithstanding such transfer is strongly opposed to the wishes and interests of the European and native population of these Settlements, and also that you were prepared to receive from us any statements we desired to make in reference to the pecuniary and other losses such an act will necessarily entail upon us, we, still earnestly protesting against the transfer of British subjects, their homes and property to a foreign nation against their consent, respectfully submit:—

That the Settlements on the Gambia were founded and established in 1816 by British capital and industry, and principally by British merchants who had settled in Senegal and Goree during the British occupation of those Colonies. After the conclusion of the war these Settlements were restored to the French; but it was stipulated and agreed that the British merchants who had in the meantime settled there might remain and carry on the trade on an equal footing with French subjects, and this arrangement was guaranteed by Treaty: these merchants and British subjects found themselves, however, so hampered and interfered with, that they were glad to leave those places, at a great sacrifice of property, and found a new home for themselves at the Gambia, where many of their descendants still are carrying on the trade. Your Lordship will here find that facts are opposed to the theory that British commerce can flourish under the French flag.

We have also other instances, equally striking and within our personal knowledge, and at a heavy cost to us, of the way in which British traders and commerce have been driven out by the French in the River Cazamance and Rio Nunez, where, for many years previously to the French having established themselves, we carried on a large and profitable English trade, which is now nearly extinct; and the same may be said with truth of the Rivers Saloon and Saine, contiguous to the Gambia.

With this experience before us, is it surprising that we should look forward with feelings of dismay to the French occupation of the Gambia, however

There is no analogy between the trade of the River Cazamance, Rio Nunez, and the Gambia. The "large and profitable English trade" carried on by means of barter has been superseded by the purchase for cash adopted by the French.

Messrs. Quin and Brown to Earl Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

specious the arguments in favour of the cession, and great the inducements held out to us of increased protection and diminished taxation under the French rule, may be?

It is extremely difficult for us to define with exactitude the precise pecuniary losses which this proposed cession will inevitably cause to us and all other native British traders in the Gambia; but, nevertheless, we will endeavour to convey to your mind, in a general way, at present (reserving to ourselves the right to give your Lordship statistical statement hereafter), the enormous sacrifices we shall be compelled to make. We will now proceed to point them out as briefly as we can.

On the faith of the continuance of British rule and British institutions, we have gone on increasing our investments in houses, stores, wharves, factories, all over the river from Bathurst, at its mouth, to nearly 400 miles along both banks thereof.

The staple article of export is (as your Lordship is doubtless aware) ground-nuts, of which produce alone it exports some 16,000 to 20,000 tons annually, the value of which, in Europe, is at 15*l.* per ton, equal to 240,000*l.*

This trade in ground-nuts, which is now extended all along the West Coast of Africa, and which has materially increased the value of the exports of the coast generally, was commenced by the British merchants in the Gambia, who, at great expense and risk, introduced and fostered its general cultivation at considerable outlay and risk. We may here add that this extensive culture of the ground-nut along the coast has mainly contributed to the extinction of the African Slave Trade. The bulky nature of this produce has compelled us to erect large and substantial stores at a vast expense, the materials for their erection having had to be imported from Europe, and has also compelled us to invest a large amount of capital in a class of vessels which are suitable for the river trade only.

To carry on this trade with a poor race of people like the native African we have had to establish numerous factories at various points in the river, where we have to keep extensive supplies of assorted British manufactured goods and food to make advances from time to time to the farmers, trusting entirely to their good-faith and honesty to pay us

Is Her Majesty's Government prepared to protect the "houses, stores, wharves, and factories all over the river from Bathurst, at its mouth, to nearly 400 miles along both banks thereof;" or is any moderate force at Bathurst competent to do so, having regard to the turbulent character of the population?

The exports are here again stated of the value for ground-nuts alone at 240,000*l.*, while the Custom-house Returns give 91,000*l.* as the total value of exports for 1869.

Messrs. Quin and Brown to Earl Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

when their crop is matured. These farmers, we must inform your Lordship, are principally natives from the interior, who (in consequence of there being no roads for such bulky produce) come down to the banks of the river to cultivate, and remain three or four years; at the end of that period they generally return to their own country with their earnings.

These factories in the river are in charge of native traders (our servants)—men without any capital of their own, and the system of the trade is such that they are obliged to keep current accounts with the farmers and others engaged in collecting the produce, running over several years; and we are firmly convinced that we shall lose, not only the amount of the actual debts which may be owing to us at these factories, but even the traders themselves may be dishonest enough to retain our property in their hands, knowing that, in our altered position, the British merchant will not be able long to continue the trade; and we are also convinced that the natives, from their experience of the French rule in the Senegal and Cazamance, will retire from the banks of the river, and it will take years to restore confidence and the trade to its present state.

The result of this state of things will be that our debts will be lost, our property in the river jeopardized, our stores, vessels, and factories will become practically useless and of little value, and very difficult, if not impossible, to realize, as it must not be supposed that the French traders coming to the Gambia will be induced at once to invest large sums of money in the purchase of extensive buildings and vessels, which have been, with us, the growth of years.

We assure your Lordship that the proposed cession to France will, if carried out, force us to quit the Gambia trade, and subsequently compel us to sacrifice:

1. Our house-property and plant in Bathurst.
2. Our colonial river craft, built expressly for this trade.
3. Our river factories and plant.
4. Our debts in the river.
5. Our stock-in-trade, and the last, though perhaps not the least of our losses will be that we shall be compelled to abandon a business created after years of labour, a large outlay of capital and patient industry under trials and difficulties of no ordinary nature, at a time when we are getting some return for our

Messrs. Quin and Brown to Earl Kimberley.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

tions and capital, and when we anticipated leaving our well-established profitable business to our children successors.

Our Lordship possibly may know the forced and sudden winding-up of a large mercantile business in any country is always attended with loss, and that loss is sure to be enhanced when it is carried on, as ours is, in a barbarous country. Our safety, therefore, has laid in keeping up the supplies and maintaining good faith with the natives, we regarding the amounts locked up as so much dormant capital invested in a trade which we had ourselves created, and with which we are acquainted.

Therefore, Her Majesty's Government is determined at all risk to carry out the proposed transfer, we ask for a simple act of justice, which is this: that it shall be stipulated in the Treaty (provided the transfer be carried out in opposition to our wishes) that the French Government shall pay us for our property invested capital a sum to be agreed on and paid before the Treaty be executed, in the same way as Her Majesty's Government proposes to secure itself for the value of their property in the said settlements.

Our Lordship will please bear in mind that the cession, if carried out, will be so carried out against our wishes, and that you are driving British subjects from a home and business which they have created by their industry; and into the position they will be placed in, and all the claims consequent thereupon, not of their own seeking, but forced upon them by the Government of their new country.

In conclusion, allow us to impress upon your Lordship the fact, that the settlements are self-supporting, do not cost the mother country a shilling, are not in debt, have a surplus invested in New Zealand bonds, and that the inhabitants feel themselves fully competent to manage their own affairs, if they are allowed the needful control thereof.

We have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS F. QUIN.
THOMAS BROWN.

the Right Hon.

Earl of Kimberley,

&c. &c. &c.

I believe the value of house-property, colonial craft, and river factories to be greatly exaggerated; and whatever its value may be, I do not believe that the transfer, if effected, would depreciate it in value, certainly not to the extent suggested here. It is natural, again, to ask how this extensive and flourishing trade can be carried on with imports amounting to 94,000*l.* in value, and exports of 91,000*l.*

Messrs. Brown and Quin, in a letter addressed to Earl Granville, dated 13th August, 1869, describe the "British subjects," or the whole European population, as "a small community, consisting of five English, and four French mercantile houses, with some seven or eight European and native importers of small value," which is a nearly accurate statement.

In the same letter the population and extent of the Settlement is described as a "small trading community on a sand-bank, three miles and a-half long, and one mile broad (the half of which is an uninhabitable swamp), and a population of about 4,000, of whom about 50 only are Europeans." Yet, in the "statement of facts" laid before Parliament by the same gentlemen, and submitted for my remarks, they speak of "the Settlement of Bathurst on the Island of St. Mary's, at the mouth of the river, and where a large and flourishing trade is carried on."

In the second and following paragraphs of that document, Mr. Thomas Brown, a party to the first letter states, "there are also about 20,000 native inhabitants in the Colony."

I think these apparently contradictory

statements and views, emanating from the same source, and laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, within a few months, require explanation.

Those contained in the letter addressed to Earl Granville, dated 13th August 1869, appear to me to be the most reliable.

In the letter to Earl Granville (13th August, 1869), it is stated, "the expense of maintaining the troops costs the British tax-payer 20,000*l.* a-year; whilst the work of protection would be far better performed by the monthly visit of one of Her Majesty's gun-boats." I quite concur in this view, but the writers appear to overlook the fact, that the cost of maintaining and coaling a gun-boat (which could never be required on that part of the coast for any other purpose), would considerably exceed what I believe to be the net profits or income of the whole population of the Gambia Colony, whether it be 4,000 or 20,000. This proposal appears to me to be a novel expedient for diminishing the cost of governing the Settlement, of which the writers complain, at the cost of European life does not appear to have entered into the calculation at all.

Messrs. Quin and Brown, in the last paragraph of their letter to the Earl of Kimberley (21st July, 1870) state, "that the inhabitants feel themselves fully competent to manage their own affairs, and they are allowed the needful control thereof." The question naturally arises, what is the number of "inhabitants," what is their social or educational status, and their power of protecting themselves from surrounding barbarous and turbulent natives? I think Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has sufficient information on these points to enable his Lordship to form a sound opinion.

Messrs. Quin and Brown, in another letter to Earl Granville (13th August 1869), express their opinion that an Administrator is not necessary, and that "a Mayor and Corporation, elected from our body could better manage our local affairs than is done at present." I should not object to see the experiment tried, if Her Majesty's Government could be relieved of all responsibility connected with it; but I entertain a belief that (as at Abbeokuta), the European population of "five English merchants, four French and seven or eight European, and native importers," would, ere many weeks or months, be expelled from the river, if nothing worse happened to them.

Remarks by Sir A. Kennedy.

I am doing my best to teach and enable Africans to "manage their own affairs." I have never appointed or recommended a European to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for any office when I could find a native competent to fill it; and I had much sooner see them left to "sort themselves," than turn them over to the management of a "Mayor and Corporation," composed of the material available at the Gambia.

Whether the Officer administering the Government be called an Administrator or by any other name, I apprehend that it will be difficult to find any person of capacity and character who would undertake the office and responsibility in such a climate as the Gambia for a less sum than is at present paid.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

No. 90.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 17, 1870.

(Received November 19, 1870.)

(Answered, No. 56, November 28, 1870, page 107.)

174.)
Lord,
REFERRING to previous correspondence relative to the cession of the Settlement of the Gambia and the boundaries to be observed between Her Majesty's Government and that of France to the northward of this Settlement, I have now the honour to transmit the copy of a letter handed to me by certain accredited messengers from King Charles Bomboh, of Taboria Kobah Baggar, which explains

This King and his subjects are among the most peaceful and industrious tribes on the Coast, and are connected with this Settlement by trade. I would recommend that their desire to place themselves under British protection should be complied with, in the event of negotiations for the cession of the Gambia Settlement being resumed.

The writers explain the geographical position of the Koba Baggar country accurately that I need not remark upon it, beyond expressing my opinion that the River Pongas, which the French have possession of, forms the natural and best boundary between the natives, who desire to place themselves under the Protectorate of Great Britain, and the French.

I have informed the writers that I shall send a copy of their letter for the consideration and decision of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-chief.

Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 90.

Encl. in No. 90.

The accredited Messengers of the King of Kobah Baggar to Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
October 15, 1870.

Good Friend,
WE, the Undersigned, being sent as Ambassadors from our King Charles Bomboh, of Taboriah, Kobah Baggar, his Chiefs, Headmen, and people, delegated

with full power and authority to approach your Excellency in order to express present desire of our country to your Excellency, that is to say :—

1. That they, as well as the whole of us, have heard that our ancient and friend Great Britain are at this moment negotiating with France for the boundary between them on the West Coast of Africa, more especially that part of the Coast which lies north of Sierra Leone.

2. Our country being part of that portion having for its east boundary Bramiah River, commencing from an island called Konny Bomboh, or Birds Isl on the south and west of the Atlantic Ocean; on the north and north-west the bank of the Mararah or Sand Bar entrance of the Pongas River; on the back east, bounded by the Yannfoo Soosoo country, which Yannfoo Soosoo country having their own respective King and Chiefs claiming the right from the west bank of Dubreka River to the east bank of the Bramiah River. Our country Konny Bomboh having sea-coast of about fifty miles, that is, from Konny Bomboh, or Birds Isl on the east and south-east bank of the Bramiah River to Mararah or Sand Bar, and on the south to the back boundary, the Yannfoo Soosoo country, about sixty miles.

3. Our country having no other European friends, nor desire to have any the English, whom we value, love, respect, and ever desire to be in friendship with

4. We are, therefore, sent by our King, Chiefs, Headmen, and people, as well as on our own behalf, to pray your Excellency to interfere as to represent our desire to our good friend the Queen of England's Government, that our country should not be excluded from the boundary contemplated to be entered into and fixed by the Queen's Government and the French nation.

5. From circumstances which have lately taken place on our coast by the French forcibly taking possession of two of the neighbouring countries to us, the Nunez and the Pongas Rivers, we thereby became alarmed and afraid, therefore we are sent by our King, Chiefs, Headmen, and people to pray your Excellency to enter into a Treaty of Peace and Commerce with your Excellency's Government for our country, and pray that our country be placed under the protectorate of Great Britain.

6. We are all aware and we are sure that Great Britain does not require an inch of our country, nor anything from it more than legal and commercial trade; also the peace and prosperity of our people, this has been proved since your Excellency's return to our country within the past two years. The proof that the British Government does not require an inch of our country is seen and known all by the restoration of the Quiah Land to its King and people; also the desire for peace and prosperity of our countries on this coast is seen and known by the cessation and personal exertion your Excellency has undergone in bringing to an end a serious and destructive war which had for five years been going on in Moa country, and also the war that has been raging for that past twelve years up the Sierra Leone River is now terminated and peace established.

7. In conclusion, we beg to say that our King, Chiefs, Headmen, and people, as well as ourselves, pray the Queen's Government not to alienate us from them from any other European Power. Trusting that this application of our King, Chiefs, Headmen, people, and ourselves may meet your Excellency and the Queen's Government's kind and favourable consideration,

We remain your Excellency's good friends, on behalf of our King, Chief, Headmen, People, and ourselves.

(Signed)

SONTY BASHIE, King's Brother.
THOMAS CHARLES, King's Son.
BETTY SHARKAH, King's Speaker.
NAMINA MODOO, King's Brother-in-law.
HENNY LAHIE, King's Nephew.

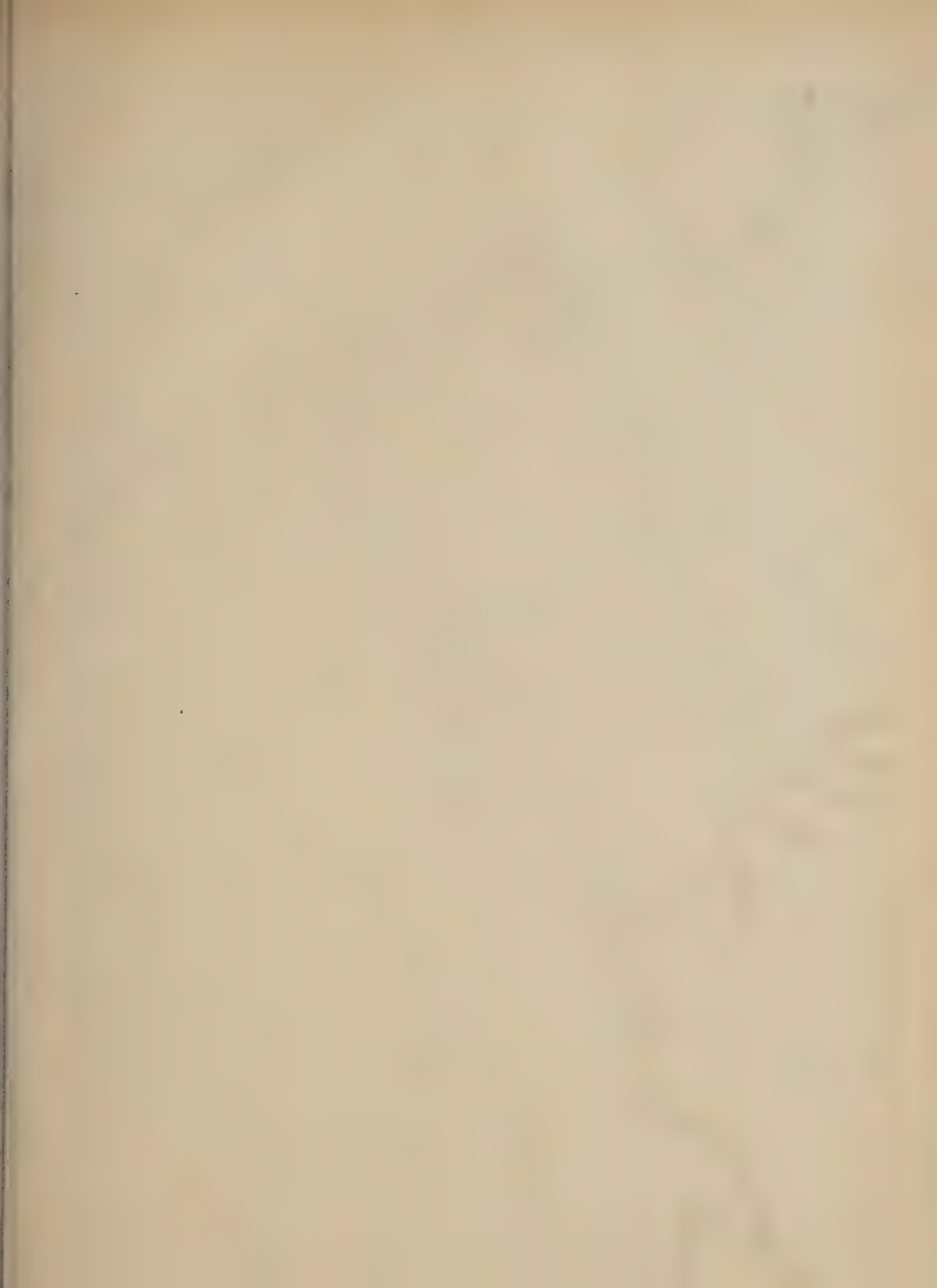
Witnesses to marks made in our presence :

(Signed)

THOS. N. WHITFIELD.

HENRY J. McCAULAY.

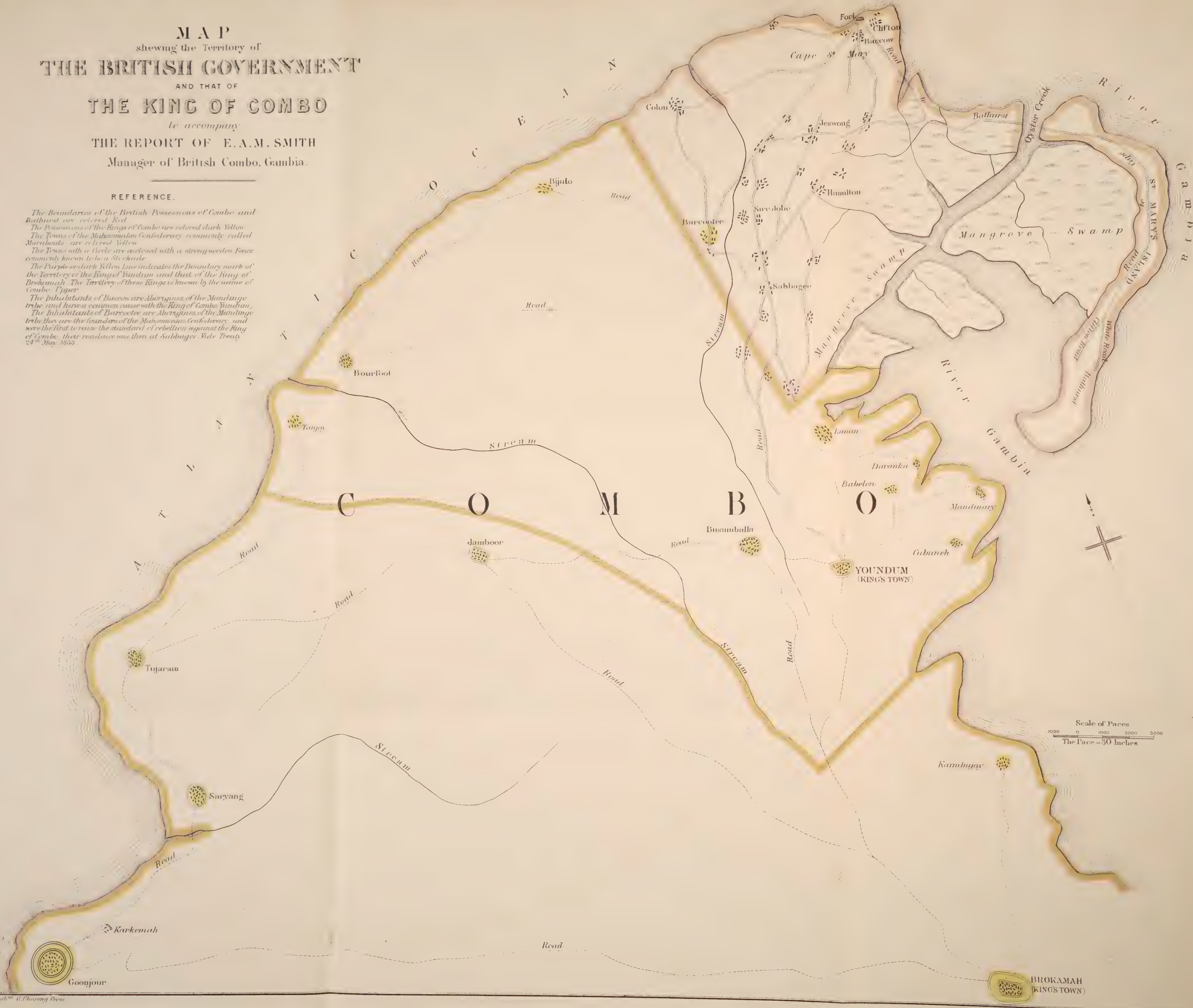
To his Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-chief of Her
Majesty's West African Settlements.



MAP
shewing the Territory of
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
AND THAT OF
THE KING OF COMBO
to accompany
THE REPORT OF E. A. M. SMITH
Manager of British Combo, Gambia.

REFERENCE.

The Boundaries of the British Possessions of Combo and Bathurst are colored Red
The Possessions of the Kings of Combo are colored dark Yellow
The Towns of the Mohammedan Confederacy commonly called Marabouts are colored Yellow
The Towns with a Circle are enclosed with a strong wooden Fence commonly known to be a Stockade
The Purple or dark Yellow Line indicates the Boundary mark of the Territory of the King of Yundum and that of the King of Brokama. The Territory of these Kings is known by the name of Combo Upper
The Inhabitants of Baccow are Aborigines of the Mandingo tribe and have a common cause with the King of Combo Yundum
The Inhabitants of Barcootee are Aborigines of the Mandingo tribe they are the founders of the Mohammedan Confederacy, and were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against the King of Combo. Their residence was then at Sabbagoe. Vide Treaty 24th May 1853.



Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
November 2, 1870.

(Received November 22.)

o. 93. Gambia.)

Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 20,* 31st August, 1870 (Gambia). I have the honour to transmit the copy of a despatch from the Acting Administrator, No. 141, 17th October, 1870, in reference to the feelings of the King of Combo on the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France, accompanied by a map of St. Mary's Island and the Combo territory.

* Page 87.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in chief.

the Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 91.

Encl. 1 in No. 91.

The Acting Administrator, Gambia, to Sir A. Kennedy.

o. 141.)

r,

Government House, October 17, 1870.

1. WITH reference to your despatch No. 119, 23rd September, 1870, enclosing copy of a despatch No. 20, 31st August, 1870, from Her Majesty's Secretary of State desiring to know the feelings of the King of Combo on the proposed transfer of the Gambia to France, and directing me to adopt the means I might deem most suitable to attain this object. I have the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that I instructed Mr. Smith, Manager of British Combo, confidentially, to proceed to the King of Combo and obtain, in an unostentatious manner, the information required.

2. I beg to enclose his Report with the result of his mission, which, I trust, you will find satisfactory. I may add that the King of Combo receives from this Government an annual payment or custom of 35*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

3. I transmit herewith a tracing of British Combo and a copy of the Convention, dated 24th May, 1853, alluded to in Mr. Smith's Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY ANTON, Administrator.

is Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,

Governor-in-chief.

Enclosure 2 in No. 91.

Encl. 2 in No. 91.

Tracing of British Combo.

Enclosure 3 in No. 91.

Encl. 3 in No. 91.

The Manager of Combo to Colonel Anton.

Manager's House, British Combo, Gambia,
October 13, 1870.

1. IN obedience to the instructions addressed to me in a Confidential letter, No. 46 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the morning of the 11th instant, I proceeded to Yundum, the abode of the King of Combo, and arrived there about 3 p.m. Having seen the King, who kindly provided place for me to lodge for the night, I then commenced a parley respecting his domestic matters. After a long conversation, the subject of the contemplated transfer of this Settlement to the French was mentioned, the King expressed himself in the following words:—

"I heard that the English will give the Gambia to the French; and, as the report was only a rumour, and feeling the subject one of grave concern, I at once

hastened to Bathurst to see the then Governor himself, who, on seeing me, stated that he had just heard of it from the same source. I then requested him to implore the Queen not to do so, but he replied that, as a servant of the Queen, he could not interfere, and if I liked I could draw up a Petition to the Queen which he would not fail to have forwarded. I, without delay, left Bathurst, and, on my arrival home, assembled my Ministers (Chiefs and Headmen) in Council, where we made a Petition that was forwarded; and, on receiving the Queen's reply from the Governor I was then led to believe that the English have already given the Gamb Settlement away, in proof of which is the evacuation of the soldiers, and what remains for us now is only to acquiesce: but, if I had been allowed to give my opinion, I would beg the English not to take such course. I shall respect a ruling Power that administers the Government of the Gambia, and would watch its policy; if it be friendly and just, I will maintain it; but if, on the contrary, I will separate from it, and regret our losing the English, who are our powerful allies and the pride of the Government of my kingdom."

2. As my mission was to ascertain the King's feelings respecting the contemplated transfer of the Settlement to the French, and also to inform your Excellency in what relation the King stands to the Settlement, and what are his means, position, and resources, I beg to state that the King's feelings are such as have already given in the preceding Report, being his own expressions. I beg not to state in what relation he stands to the Settlement.

To arrive at an explicit definition on the subject, an outline map of Combo, with note of reference, is essentially necessary; and, as there is none at present in existence, I have endeavoured to make one from memory, as far as I traversed the territory, which I herewith annex.

3. The information about the King's means, position, and resources are the following:—

The King is the head of the State, but his title is nominal, as he cannot act in any way absolutely, and all his policy must bear the tests of his Chiefs and Headmen in Council.

Any law or regulation framed by his Council must be ratified and receive his assent before it can come into operation; but this is only a matter of form, for he has no alternative on what the Council decides, unless it be of matters connected with war or concerning British subjects or interests, when he submits the same to the Governor of the Gambia for arbitration.

4. He owns a large territory which contains towns, villages, and farms, with people of different tribes occupying them, the principal tribe being Mandingo.

5. In the event of war he enters upon a defensive Treaty with the British Government (vide Treaty 24th May, 1853); his troops are levied from all men in his territory below the age of fifty years; and he has allied himself with the King of Brekamah, and Farabah, and Kaffutah. He supplies his warriors with gun and powder, procurable with the money he collects from Customs paid by various parties, viz., the Colonial Government, merchants, traders, and foreigners, or strangers who occupy any land or building in his territory.

6. His stipend or means of subsistence is derived from fines and forfeitures of criminals and from the produce of his farms, and also from presents and gifts from visitors and travellers who journey through the kingdom.

7. In conclusion, I beg further to add that the King's influence only extends over the Souninke towns of his territory and with his allies; the Mahometan portion have long since withdrawn their allegiance from the King and his Government, and are acting independently; but for the supremacy of the British Government they would have drawn the sword against the King for the purpose of aggrandizing their lust for power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. A. M. SMITH, Manager.

To his Excellency Colonel Anton,
Administrator, Gambia.

CONVENTION between his Excellency Luke Smyth O'Connor, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel in Her Majesty's Army, Governor, Commander-in-chief and Vice-Admiral of Her Majesty's Settlement upon the River Gambia and its Dependencies, Commanding the British Forces on the Western Coast of Africa, and the King, Salatti, and the Chiefs of Combo.

WHEREAS disturbances have occurred in the said Kingdom of Combo, and continued therein for several years, by reason of which the said Kingdom, as well as Her Majesty's said Settlement, have sustained much injury, and a portion of said Kingdom has been withdrawn from the allegiance of the said King.

And whereas the said King has offered to cede to Her Majesty the Queen of England that portion of his said Kingdom of Combo from the mouth of Sabijee Creek in a straight line to a point situated one mile south of Sabijee, and extending to a point situated on the sea-shore two miles north of the town of Bijulo, and bounded on the other sides by the sea, in consideration of his receiving the aid of the Governor of the said Settlement to effect on his behalf a termination of those disturbances at Sabijee.

It is agreed upon as follows:—

1st. The King of Combo shall, on a day to be fixed and appointed for that purpose by the said Governor, cede and deliver up to the said Governor or his accredited agent for and on behalf of the Queen of England the aforesaid portion of his territory, to hold to her said Majesty her heirs and successors for ever.

2nd. The peace and amity heretofore existing between the King of Combo and her said Majesty, and the free intercourse between the inhabitants of the said Kingdom of Combo, and of her said Majesty's Settlements, shall be continued.

3rd. The King of Combo agrees to afford at all times to the Governor of her Majesty's Settlement his aid and assistance to secure to her said Majesty the peaceable occupation of the territory to be ceded, as aforesaid.

4th. In consideration of the above, the said Governor undertakes to afford his aid to the said King of Combo in bringing the aforesaid disputes and disturbances to a speedy termination.

In witness whereof, the aforesaid several parties have hereunto affixed their seals this 24th day of May, in the year 1853, and the sixteenth year of the reign of her said Majesty Queen Victoria.

(Signed)

L. SMYTH O'CONNOR, Lieut.-Colonel,
Governor, Commander-in-chief.

SUI LONG YARTA, his X mark, King
of Combo.

MARDEY MARIAMA, his X mark,
Sarlitte of Youndun.

MARDEY KOONGKONG, his X mark,
Prime Minister to the King.

Sealed, signed, and delivered in the presence of—

(Signed)

W. ANDERSON, Captain 2nd West Indian
Regiment.

W. BRADSHAW, Commander H.M. Ship
"Resistance."

THOMAS BROWN, Member of Council.

W. H. GODDARD, Member of Council.

No. 92.

No. 92.

Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

No. 56.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 28, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 174* of the 7th ultimo with a copy of a letter from the accredited messengers of the King of Kabon, Kabah Baggar, expressing his desire to be placed under British protection.

* Page 103.

You will have the goodness to inform the King that his request will be taken into consideration in the event of the negotiations for the cession of the Gambia being resumed.

Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

